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THE EMIRATES FA CUP FIRST ROUND 2016/17

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The sun doesn't always shine on Koeman



Everton manager Ronald Koeman

Ronald Koeman is looking to the "personalities" in his Everton side to steer the Toffees back into brighter form.

Everton made an excellent start in the Premier League this season as they followed up an opening home draw with Tottenham by winning the next four games on the bounce.

But they have failed to take maximum points in any of the four fixtures since then, with a clash against West Ham at Goodison Park next up on Sunday.

Koeman, who left Saints to take

over as Everton boss in June, has stressed it cannot be "always sunny" for any club - but has also emphasised a swift improvement in results is needed.

"Of course, we know if you don't win in your last four in the Premier League, then every time you come more close to a must-win game," the Dutchman said.

"It happened also at Southampton - it is not always sunny. You don't win always. You get in difficult, tough times and then, really, you need to support each other. That's important.

"If everything goes well it's easy to come in the team and play. But we need now really the personalities to turn it around.

"And we have enough personalities in the team."

Everton, who went into the weekend in sixth place, have conceded eight goals and scored 13 in their nine games.

They have scored only three in the last four, and Koeman wants to see his side develop more of a cutting edge with Romelu Lukaku, who has netted six times in total, receiving more support.

Pep needs more time

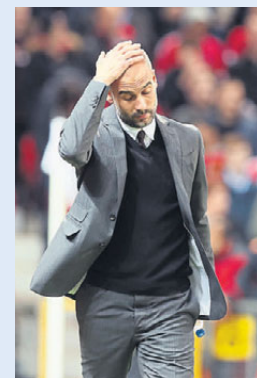
Pep Guardiola has dismissed the notion his Premier League rivals have already worked him out.

But the Manchester City boss believes it will take time to fully combat the measures opponents are using to nullify his side.

Guardiola's superb start to life at City has been tempered by a failure to win any of their last six games in all competitions - the worst sequence of the Catalan's managerial career.

All seemed positive as Guardiola's men swept to victory in their opening 10 matches but rival managers, such as Saints' Claude Puel, have since urged their teams to press high and disrupt City's attempts to play out from the back.

Guardiola said: "That



Pep Guardiola.

has always happened in my career.

"I know what you have to do in these cases but sometimes you need time to make it better.

"I don't think this is the situation (reason) why we didn't win the games."

In recent games against Barcelona and Saints, City were punished for individual errors, but Guardiola is not dwelling on that and focusing on the lack of potency evident against Manchester United in midweek.

He said: "Until the goal from United we had more (time) closer to the goal than United. Five, six times clear - and (David) de Gea didn't save. We were there but we didn't finish.

"That is what you have to improve. If not, it is so, so difficult.

"In the end, the difference between the big clubs is how you are in the boxes."

Conte's worried about his health

By Simon Carter



Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte sees no reason to speak to Jose Mourinho about his high-energy touchline actions - but admits they pose a risk to his health.

The Italian, who brings his side to St Mary's to face Saints this Sunday, is a man who kicks every ball and bellows to his players from his technical area.

Mourinho appeared to express his annoyance when speaking at length to his successor after Chelsea's emphatic win over Manchester United last Sunday.

Italian media reported Mourinho had been annoyed that Conte had encouraged the home support to cheer on the Blues when they were already 4-0 up, saying "it's humiliating".

Conte was asked if he had spoken to his Chelsea predecessor Mourinho since.

"No, but I don't think it's necessary," Conte said.

The former Juventus and Italy head coach is, though, concerned for his own well-being.

"I'm worried about this," Conte said.

"For this reason, I try to run, to maintain a good physical form. It's important because I know that I risk a bit."

Conte likes to run for 30 to 40 minutes at Chelsea's Cobham training ground, when time allows, changing the "rhythm" of his run. But he does not over-exert himself.

Unlike some managers, Conte says he does not have a banned list of food which his players must ad-



Chelsea manager Antonio Conte

here to. He eats healthily, except when with his family, when he enjoys a bowl of spaghetti. Nutella is another one of his vices.

Usually carbohydrates are eat-

en in moderation and he encourages his players to do the same.

"Before pre-season we explained only the right balance when you eat, with carbohydrate, protein

and fat," he said. "Only this, but not to prevent or ban something. I like pasta, but I try to avoid because a lot of carbohydrate is not good."

Jack unsure of Arsenal future

Midfielder Jack Wilshere is unsure whether his Arsenal career is over.

The 24-year-old, who joined the Gunners aged nine, is currently on a season-long loan with Bournemouth as he tries to re-establish himself following a lengthy list of injuries.

Wilshere has pulled on the Arsenal shirt just five times since May 2015 and felt he was falling down the pecking order at the Emirates Stadium.

He is under contract in north London until 2018 but is not certain whether he has a future there.

"I haven't really thought about my future beyond getting a season under my belt and just trying to improve as a player," Wilshere said.

"I genuinely don't know if I am going to end up at Arsenal or somewhere else.

"If you'd asked me two months ago if I was going to finish my career at Arsenal then I would have said, 'Yeah, of course'.

"Two months ago I wouldn't



Jack Wilshere, left.

have seen myself being here, but here I am. And I'm enjoying it."

Wilshere is getting what he craves with the Cherries, having started all but one of the eight games he has been there, which is something he felt he would not get at Arsenal.

"There were a lot of midfielders and the manager brought another one in," he added. "I'd been injured for a while, and I was thinking I was at a stage of my career where I needed to play.

"I'm 24 and I've already missed too much football, and, if I want to get to where I want to be, it'd be no good coming off the bench in every game."

Wilshere played more games for England than he did Arsenal last season, but his axe from Sam Allardyce's only squad as manager of the national team forced him to accept his situation.

"It was the final straw," he said. "It hurt not being in there."

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NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Cresswell off as

By Wendy Gee



EASTLEIGH chose their moment in the BT Sport spotlight to suffer by far their worst result under manager Ronnie Moore at Barrow.

The early second-half dismissal of skipper Ryan Cresswell proved pivotal as the ten-man Spitfires succumbed to a hefty 4-0 National League defeat at Holker Street.

Barrow's star man Byron Harrison weighed in with a hat-trick to condemn the Spitfires to only their second loss in 14 league games since Moore was named Chris Todd's successor in mid-August.

Eastleigh lined up at a grey, drizzly Holker Street without striker James Constable (concussion) and defensive colossus Reda Johnson (virus).

That left Connor Essam partnering skipper Cresswell in central defence, while Ryan Bird was recalled alongside 41-year-old Jamie Cureton up top.

The game had hardly got going when there was a lengthy hold-up for a nasty facial injury to Eastleigh goalkeeper Ryan Clarke.

He was left with blood streaming from his nose after denying Barrow with a superb sixth-minute double save.

After sprawling to push away Alex Ray-Harvey's strike from outside the area, he bravely dived at Harrison's feet, taking a blow to the face in the process.

With blood streaming from a suspected broken nose, play was halted for six minutes while Clarke was tended to.

He managed to continue after a change of pink shirt and having plugs inserted to stem the bleeding.

That spate of Barrow pressure followed a throw-in from the right and there was more danger from that area on 13 minutes when, from a free-kick conceded by Jai Reason, Liam Hughes rifled wide.

Another injury, to Barrow's Shaun Beeley, triggered another long hold-up, and little was seen of Eastleigh as an attacking force until around the half-hour mark of a stop-start game.

Having appealed in vain for handball against Beeley following a swiftly-taken short corner, right-back Joe Partington had a shot blocked in the wake of a free kick – those incidents bridging Bird's stabbed effort wide.

Barrow had the ball in the net on 32 minutes following another free-kick conceded by the combative Reason, but Hughes' header was ruled out for offside.

During a whopping nine min-



Jai Reason fires in a shot for Eastleigh at Barrow.



Ryan Cresswell brings down Richard Bennett to give away a penalty and earn himself a red card at Holker Street. Pictures from Arthur Haigh/WhiteRosePhotos

utes of added time, the Bluebird threatened again. Richie Bennett unleashed a terrific shot on the turn which appeared to be finger-tipped onto the bar by Clarke, but appeals for a Barrow corner fell on deaf ears.

Half-time: Barrow 0 Eastleigh 0
The second half opened in nightmare fashion for the Spitfires as they conceded a penalty

and had captain Cresswell red-carded.

Luke Coulson was caught in possession in midfield, Barrow punted a long ball forward and, in desperation, Cresswell tugged at Bennett – albeit with minimal contact – as the Barrow No9 threatened to burst clear.

HARRISON coolly sent Clarke the wrong way from the spot to

give the Bluebirds the 48th-minute breakthrough.

Moore stuck with two up front, switching Partington into central defence and introducing sub David Pipe at right-back.

The ten-man Spitfires briefly dominated possession, knocking the ball around well, before disaster number two struck on 62 minutes.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Eastleigh crash



Byron Harrison opens the scoring for Eastleigh from the penalty spot.

Eastleigh were again undone by a long throw from the right, the giant figure of Barrow defender Moussa Diarra won the header and Nick ANDERTON hooked into the top corner for 2-0.

Moore went for broke, removing Bird and Cureton and throwing on the young legs of Mikael Mandron and fit-again Scott Wilson up front.

But a punishing afternoon for the visitors got worse on 74 minutes as the Bluebirds nicked goal number three.

Jordan Williams' deep cross from the left was met by Bennett's looping header back across goal and, although Clarke clawed it out from under the bar, HARRISON nodded in from a yard out.

Wounded soldier Clarke pulled

off another superlative save to keep Williams' 25-yard free-kick out of the top corner with three minutes of normal time remaining.

But there was more doom and gloom to come for Eastleigh as the excellent HARRISON too easily outjumped Mandron to head in sub Andy Haworth's cross in the second minute of stoppage time.

Eastleigh: Ryan Clarke, Joe Partington, Michael Green, Jason Taylor, Connor Essam, Ryan Cresswell, Luke Coulson, Andy Drury, Jamie Cureton (Scott Wilson, 64), Ryan Bird (Mikael Mandron, 64), Jai Reason (David Pipe, 49). Subs (not used) Jake Howells, Ryan Huddart.
Referee: Karl Evans
Attendance: 1,795 (46 from Eastleigh)

● Eastleigh's FA Cup opponents also had an away trip to forget, crashing 4-1 at League 1 leaders Scunthorpe. All the hosts' goals - from Paddy Madden (2), Kevin van Veen and Duane Holmes - came in the first half before Nathan Thompson replied.

● Defeat to Arsenal on Saturday left Sunderland with two points from 10 Premier League games, equalling the lowest ever total at that stage.

Draws with Saints (at St Mary's back in August) and West Brom and eight defeats have seen David Moyes' side match the unwanted record set by Manchester City in 1995, a very different era for City.

Alexis Sanchez's second goal of the match, to seal Arsenal's 4-1 win, also left Sunderland's goal difference at minus-13 - one worse than City that season to edge them for the worst record.

That City team recovered to an extent, finishing on 38 points and being relegated on goal difference alone behind Saints and Coventry.

If that appears to offer hope, though, it is worth remembering that while level 2-2 with Liverpool late in their last game, City - managed at the time by ex-Saints boss Alan Ball - opted to run the clock down by the corner flag having miscalculated the goal difference situation, in the belief that a draw would keep them up.

Everton's efforts the previous season, 1994/95, would be a better example to follow - the Toffees recovered from taking only three points in their first 10 games of what was then a 42-game season to finish on 50, clear of relegation in 15th place.

Swindon, though, were relegated the year before that after taking three points from the first 30 available - indeed, they managed only 30 all season to finish 10 points adrift at the bottom (see feature in this newspaper on pages 26/27).

The most recent precedent for a start to rival Sunderland's comes from Crystal Palace just three seasons ago, when they won one and lost nine of their first 10 games under Ian Holloway.

They surged clear of relegation and almost into the top half, finishing 11th - though that may not be a good omen for Moyes, given that their extraordinary second half of the season came after Holloway was replaced in the dugout by Tony Pulis.

City return to the summit

MANCHESTER City triumphed 4-0 at West Brom to make a swift return to the Premier League summit on Saturday after Arsenal had briefly taken over top spot with a 4-1 romp at Sunderland.

Sergio Aguero opened the scoring from a tight angle on 19 minutes after being slipped in by Ilkay Gundogan, with the second a brilliant strike into the top corner nine minutes later.

The Argentina forward was involved in the third goal after the interval, too, teeing up Gundogan, and the German sealed the rout with his second goal in the final minute to emphatically end manager Pep Guardiola's six-game winless run.

Olivier Giroud's first goals of the season had earlier handed Arsenal victory and Sunderland a share of an unwanted Premier League record in the lunchtime kick-off on Wearside.

The France forward struck twice within five minutes of being introduced as a 69th-minute substitute to kill off hopes of a Black Cats' fightback after Jermain Defoe's penalty had cancelled out Alexis Sanchez's first-half opener.

Sanchez helped himself to a second - the last three goals came inside a chaotic seven-minute period - to leave Sunderland with only two points from their first 10 league games, matching Manchester City's low in 1995-96.

Tottenham and Leicester battled out a 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane, Ahmed Musa securing a point for the champions with a close-range tap-in from Jamie Vardy's pass soon after the restart.

Vincent Janssen's penalty - awarded shortly before half-time after he was adjudged to have been fouled by Robert Huth - had opened the scoring for Spurs, who also hit the woodwork through Dele Alli and Jan Vertonghen.

Jose Mourinho was sent to the stands after complaining at half-time of Manchester United's goalless draw against Burnley at Old Trafford.

United's cause was not helped by the dismissal of midfielder Ander Herrera for a second bookable offence midway through the second half, or the fine form of Claret's goalkeeper Tom Heaton.

Watford nicked a valuable 1-0 win with a late goal against Hull, Daryl Janmaat's cross deflected in by Hull defender Michael Dawson seven minutes from time at Vicarage Road.

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SAINTS



Egil Olsen scores for Saints in their famous 6-3 humbling of Manchester United.

The day Saints hit Fergie for six!

JOSE Mourinho endured a torrid return to Stamford Bridge as Chelsea hammered Manchester United 4-0 in the Premier League.

Here, the Sports Pink charts five of United's heaviest league losses.

Manchester United 1 Manchester City 6, October 23, 2011

The first time United had leaked six goals at Old Trafford since 1930, this was their heaviest home defeat for 56 years. Mario Balotelli started the rout as City kick-started their title drive.

Newcastle 5 Manchester United 0, October 20, 1996

Philippe Albert's stunning lob over Peter Schmeichel capped a thumping win as Kevin Keegan's men gained some revenge having lost the title to United the previous season.

Chelsea 5 Manchester United 0, October 3, 2000

Chelsea ended United's 29-game unbeaten run in some style, Gus Poyet on the scoresheet after just 27 seconds.

Saints 6 Manchester United 3, October 26, 1996

Egil Olsen fired a hat-trick – though his final goal has been given at times as a Gary Neville own goal – Roy Keane was sent off and Matt Le Tissier chipped Schmeichel. Arguably more humiliating than United's 3-1 defeat at The Dell the previous season that Sir Alex Ferguson blamed on



Egil Olsen, left, celebrates a goal. Eyal Berkovic, below left, does likewise and Matt Le Tissier, below right, is challenged by a young David Beckham.



the side's grey kit.

Eyal Berkovic also scored twice for Saints in a game that had its 20th anniversary this week.

Manchester United 1 Liverpool 4, March 14, 2009

Fernando Torres ran riot with Steven Gerrard, Fabio Aurelio and Andrea Dossena also on tar-



get as Rafael Benitez got one up on Ferguson.

Despite this home humbling, United still progressed to take the title.

FA's £200m booster

The FA is helping to invest £200million in a scheme in the latest step to boost the grassroots game.

They are spearheading the Parklife project which will look to build 30 all-purpose football facilities in towns and cities by 2020.

Along with the Department for Culture Media and Sport, Premier League and local partners, the FA is set to help provide the sum in the project over the next five years.

The SGP Sheffield Graves centre, which has been built with Parklife project funding, was this week opened by FA chief executive Martin Glenn and Sports Minister Tracey Crouch, and interim England manager Gareth Southgate believes the country will end up reaping the rewards.

He said: "When talking



Martin Glenn.

about player development you're always thinking about short, medium and long-term strategies. It can't always be about what's right for the next 12 months.

"We have to invest in young people in this country. The benefit for these sites might not be seen for a decade but we will benefit for decades.

"I know grassroots clubs, football or other sports, are a massive part of the local community and it gives kids somewhere to go."

Glenn added: "These hubs are the start of something big. The Sheffield centres mark the beginning of the end of a story all too familiar to the grassroots footballer of poor pitches, woefully inadequate changing facilities and a battle against the elements to get fixtures completed each winter."

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CHERRIES FOOTBALL

MIDDLESBROUGH 2 BOURNEMOUTH 0

Cherries stunned by Gaston wonder goal

FORMER Saints enigma Gaston Ramirez scored a solo master-piece as Middlesbrough reversed their worrying home form with a commanding 2-0 victory over Bournemouth.

Ramirez's first-half effort was a thing of beauty, starting with a brave block deep in his own half and continuing the length of the pitch as Harry Arter, Andrew Surman and finally goalkeeper Artur Boruc were beaten by his drive, guile and craft.

For a side who had taken a single point from their first four games at the Riverside it was a heady moment, followed in the second half by another pleasing move finished by local boy Stewart Downing.

If Ramirez's lung-busting run and delicate finish was the aesthetic choice, Downing's close-range prod packed an emotional punch.

The 32-year-old last scored a Premier League goal for his hometown team in May 2008, in an 8-1 triumph over Sven-Goran Eriksson's Manchester City. In the intervening years much has changed for all concerned.

In all there were 14 Englishmen in the starting sides, though Gareth Southgate, former Boro boss and now interim manager of the national side, was nowhere to be seen.

There were early signs that Ramirez - signed by Boro on a free in the summer after being released by Saints - was in the mood, snaffling a loose ball from Arter in the opening seconds and pressing with greater conviction than usual.

On the opposite flank Adama Traore was also causing problems with his direct running but Boro needed Adam Clayton to head off the line after Joshua King clipped a corner goalwards.

Traore had a decent penalty shout in the 18th minute when, after leaving Arter for dead, he drew a sliding tackle from Charlie Daniels.

There did appear to be contact but Traore's tumble was belated and did nothing to persuade Stuart Atwell to point to the spot.

Jack Wilshere, whose case for an England recall is gathering momentum, unlocked the home defence after 27 minutes, scooping a pass over the back four and finding King, who cushioned the ball on his chest.



Middlesbrough's Gaston Ramirez scores his side's first goal



Bournemouth's Jack Wilshere challenges Middlesbrough's Adam Forshaw

With Victor Valdes advancing, King volleyed instinctively with the outside of his boot but saw the ball canon back off the crossbar and away.

With Wilshere and Jordon Ibe pushing their side forward,

Bournemouth had just started to set the tempo when Ramirez intervened quite brilliantly.

In many ways, his was the perfect goal.

At the start he showed bravery to charge down a shot from Adam

Smith and he followed with pace and poise to glide past Arter. As the goal came into view Surman was sent packing with a neat turn and Boruc beaten with a measured shot.

It was good enough to win any game but, with just 37 minutes on the clock, Boro could hardly be sure at that stage.

They started confidently in the second period and fashioned another pleasing goal in the 56th minute.

Traore picked the lock this time, floating a delightful ball towards Alvaro Negredo with the outside of his boot.

Rather than aim at goal, the Spaniard headed it back across for Downing who gratefully finished the job and celebrated passionately.

Eddie Howe sought changes, Callum Wilson and Ibe making way for Benik Afobe and Ryan Fraser, while Ramirez's afternoon ended soon after with Grant Leadbitter's arrival.

Afobe's work handed Smith a chance to strike from 12 yards but Calum Chambers got his body in the way.

The Cherries ensured no further damage was done, Wilshere tracking back with a goal-saving challenge to rob Traore. Fraser even threatened a consolation with a cross-shot that required Valdes' attention but there was no way back.

Dream start, nightmare ending...

JUSTIN Bennett scored one of the fastest goals in FA Trophy history when he put Salisbury ahead after only 18 seconds of their first round tie against Chippenham Town at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

But that dream start ended in last-minute heartbreak with David Pratt scoring a stoppage time winner for Chippenham, writes **MIKE VIMPANY**.

Injury-hit Salisbury, who were only able to name three substitutes on the bench, snatched a sensational lead within 18 seconds of kicking off.

After the ball had been played harmlessly forward, Chippenham central defender Greg Tindle was too casual in laying it back to goalkeeper Darren Chitty and BENNETT nipped into score.

Salisbury's joy was short lived. Minutes after hitting the near upright, PRATT put Chippenham level from a bicycle kick.

There was no let-up in the action as the Wiltshire pair traded blows - Will Richards being just off target for Chippenham and referee Dan Lampert allowing Tommy Wright the opportunity to play on after he had appeared to be pulled back in the box.

A thoroughly absorbing first-half reached a dramatic climax with both sides scoring in the last 90 seconds of action.

RICHARDS put Chippenham ahead after Matt Jones had forced a near-post corner.

Almost immediately Sam Roberts worked the ball in from the right and WRIGHT made it 2-2 with a curling shot into the top corner.

With Lewis Benson prominent in midfield, Salisbury bossed large chunks of the second half without creating too much danger.

The tie looked set for a replay until PRATT pounced in a goalmouth scramble to give Chippenham a slightly fortuitous victory.

● TWO goals from Craig Feeney saw Winchester City come from behind to progress in the FA Trophy. They trailed Fleet Town 1-0 at Calthorpe Park, Josh Harfield on target.

But Feeney equalised before half-time and then produced a stunning solo run and finish midway through the second half.

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NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Corbett to take up reins

MARK Corbett has been named as new first-team manager of Sydenhams One outfit Alton – but he will not take up the post until next season.

Corbett is well-known to the Brewers, having played for Alton Town and managed their youth team.

He works as a full-time football coach at Portsmouth FC, in charge of their academy and scholars, and has too much on his plate right now to step straight in as successor to Michael Charles at the Anstey Park Enclosure.

An Alton FC statement said: “We are pleased to announce that Mark Corbett has been appointed manager of our first team.

“Because of current commitments, including studying for his UEFA A coaching licence, Mark will not take up this position until next season.

“In the meantime Clive Ventham, assisted by Sean Hayes, will manage the team.

“We very much welcome Mark while giving Clive and Sean every support for the rest of the season.”

Town win is just ‘weird’

ALRESFORD Town’s passage into the FA Vase second round was far from straightforward.

Despite a decent start against Southern Combination visitors Lingfield, they somehow contrived to go 3-0 down.

“It was the weirdest game of football I’ve ever been involved in,” marvelled Magpies boss Richard Luffman, whose side eventually prevailed 5-3.

“We were in total control and somehow we were 3-0 down after 30 minutes.

“Aaron Blaxall scored a big goal to make it 3-1 and then Mo Nyang, who we’d brought on at 3-0, scored an even bigger one to make it 3-2 at the break.

“Then, within 20 minutes of the second half starting, we were 5-3 up with Steve Hall scoring twice either side of a Tom Richards goal.”

Alresford’s reward is a trip to Corinthian of the Southern Counties East who knocked out Alton 2-0 last weekend.

“They’re similar to us in that they’ve won more cup than league games and raise their game for the big occasion,” said Luffman.

Travelling fans to benefit from TV money



Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald

THE generosity of Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald knows no bounds.

The Spitfires chief will donate a percentage of the TV money due in for next Friday’s big FA Cup first round tie against Swindon Town to subsidise supporters’ travel to their following four away games in the National League.

Eastleigh are in line for a £67,500 broadcast fee for the Swindon match which goes out on BBC2 at 7.55pm on November 4.

Some of that money will go towards ensuring fans can travel to their next four away fixtures – at Gateshead (Nov 19), Aldershot

Town (Nov 22), Maidstone United (Nov 29) and Southport (Dec 17) – for a flat rate price of just £10 per person.

With Christmas fast approaching, Eastleigh are acutely aware that supporters’ budgets will be tight.

Donald said: “I feel this may help our loyal travelling fans to attend as many away games as possible during what will be an expensive time of year for the fan base.”

It’s the second time in recent weeks that Donald has used Eastleigh’s FA Cup earnings to help others.

He received national acclaim for donating the entire gate receipts from their 6-0 fourth qualifying round win to their Southern One South & West opponents North Leigh.

Tickets for the Swindon tie are priced £15 adults, £10 concessions (over-65s, disabled, students) and £5 juniors (under-16s).

Eastleigh fans can purchase them from the club shop/offices, online at <https://eastleighfc.cloudvenue.co.uk/> or by calling 023 8061 3361.

Swindon Town have initially been allocated 1,000 tickets in the Mackoy Community Stand.

Boatmen hoping for Wort fireworks

Wendy Gee



SHOLING are letting fans in FREE of charge for their Sydenhams Premier top-five showdown with Brockenhurst next Saturday (November 5).

And they hope to be firing on all cylinders in the build-up to Firework Night following the return of frontline sparkler Lee Wort to Portsmouth Road.

Wort has been welcomed back with open arms, having previously made 308 appearances for the Boatmen and been part of their epic FA Vase/Sydenhams Premier double-winning campaign of 2013/14.

Having left Sholing at the end of that season, Wort made a brief return towards the end of 2015/16 after parting company Vanarama National League South outfit Gosport Borough where his chances of first-team football had been limited.

With a number of offers open to him, the St Mary’s-based striker became an official Poole Town player in June, having previously impressed for the Dolphins on loan, but has been unable to force his way into the side.

Now Sholing boss Dave Diaper is aiming to get the 25-year-old back to his sharpshooting best.

“It’s good to see Lee back in a Sholing shirt,” smiled Diaper. “It’s part of my job to try and get him back to what he was two or three years ago when he was a prolific goalscorer for us in the Southern League, banging in over



RETURN: Lee Wort pictured this week with Sholing boss Dave Diaper

30 goals in what was a very good side.

“It’s a great signing for us and a great boost for the club.

“We would like to thank Poole Town for moving this on swiftly to enable Lee to be available for our away match at Horndean today.”

Sholing came into this weekend’s round of fixtures sitting third in the Sydenhams Premier, seven points adrift of league leaders Moneyfields with two games in hand.

Club chairman Gerry Roberts is calling on the Boatmen’s youth,

ladies and pan-disability players, managers and parents to be at the ground for 1.45pm next Saturday (November 5) to be part of a ‘Sholing Football Family’ group photograph. Club sponsors and Sholing’s band of volunteers are also welcome to join in.

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NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Have gloves will travel: Burch the go-to goalie

LEE Burch's appearance in goal for Fawley AFC last Saturday wasn't quite as surprising as it seemed.

The former AFC Totton head coach has quite a bit of experience between the sticks, including a recent appearance for Whitchurch United in their 4-3 win over Verwood Town.

Burch has been helping out with some coaching at Fawley since his old Hythe & Dibden sidekick Scott Johnston joined the management team at Long Lane.

And when Oilers' co-boss Aaron Fry heard about his exploits with Whitchurch, he had no hesitation getting Burch signed on for last Saturday's 0-0 Sydenhams Premier draw at Newport IoW.

Burch, back on his feet again after breaking his right leg playing for AFC Totton Reserves in October last year, is best known as a forward.

But he said: "I've always played in

goal and I've been the go-to person at all the clubs I've been at when they haven't had a keeper. I've played in goal for Blackfield & Langley, Brockenhurst and Hythe & Dibden and I did it at Fawley as a 16-year-old.

"I recently helped Whitchurch out as a favour to their manager Carl Bennett. It was psychologically good to get a game having been out for so long injured.

"Fawley saw I'd played for them and Aaron Fry rang me and said he'd like me to play as much as I can for them going forward."

As much as anything, Burch believes his experience can help the Oilers as they look to safeguard their Sydenhams Premier future.

"Fawley are quite a young side and feel the need for a couple of leaders," he explained.

"I never thought I'd be back playing this quickly after the injury, but

training session after training session and warm-up after warm-up, I'm getting sharper.

"I'll play as much as I can do, but it will only be in goal. I don't think my knees would let me play outfield.

"My plan is to play in goal for Fawley and, when I'm not playing, I'll help out the young lads."

With a string of coaching qualifications to his name, Burch has been managing Women's Super League outfit Millwall Lionesses since July, but playing for Fawley won't infringe on that.

"My Millwall stuff is all on Sundays," he said. "So I am available."

Steve Green, who played for Burch when he was manager of Hythe & Dibden, has joined the Fawley fold.

"He's another one with experience," said Burch. "On and off the field he's a bit more of a leader."



Lee Burch watching on at AFC Totton when he had a broken leg

United boss in referee at Silverlake

Wendy Gee



TORQUAY United player-boss Kevin Nicholson reckoned his side were victims of "one of the worst decisions I've seen in football" in Tuesday's 3-0 loss at Eastleigh.

The Gulls were trailing by a Jamie Cureton header when referee David Rock ruled that former Spitfire Brett Williams had passed back to keeper Brendon Moore in the 89th minute.

Eastleigh scored from the resulting indirect free-kick, taken from the left corner of the six-yard box, with Jai Reason teeing up Andy Drury to tuck away.

To add to Torquay's frustration, Ronnie Moore's Spitfires struck again through Ryan Bird in added time to put a slightly flattering gloss on the final scoreline.

Fuming in a post-match interview, Nicholson said: "He (Rock) should have to explain what he's done. It's cost my boys something and it's our fans that have paid money to watch.

"We were in with a good chance of getting something from the game and it's totally taken out of our hands by one of the worst decisions I've seen in football.

"Going into the last seven or eight minutes at 1-0, I fancied us strongly as we looked like the belief was coming back.

"We looked like we knew what we were doing and we never came



ON TARGET: Eastleigh scorer Andy Drury

away from anything I asked of them. I've got no criticism of the lads whatsoever," added the Gulls boss.

"Whatever I say sounds like an excuse, and I don't want it to come

across like that, but we've come to somewhere that's got resources beyond our wildest dreams and we've matched them toe for toe, stride for stride, pass for pass.

"We deserved a chance in the

last five minutes to have a real good go at them and see if we could get something."

The Silverlake defeat dropped Torquay to 18th in the National League.

Winding-up petition

VANARAMA National League South outfit Gosport Borough have been served with a winding-up petition by HM Revenue and Customs for the second time this year.

Borough, whose chairman Mark Hook is leader of Gosport Borough Council, faced similar action in July but it was dismissed just over a month later.

This latest petition will be heard at the High Court, Royal Courts of Justice, in London on Monday, November 21.

Dossie signs Pompey ace

SUTTON United have signed young midfielder Adam May on a month's loan from League Two outfit Portsmouth.

The Pompey academy graduate made his first-team debut in a League Two clash with Bury in April 2015 before signing his first professional deal a few months later.

He gained some more first-team experience with a spell on loan with National League South side Gosport Borough last season.

Sutton, managed by former Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell, are among the Spitfires' rivals in the National League.

Fireworks at AFC Totton

AFC TOTTON will be lighting up the night sky with their annual Firework Night Spectacular next Friday (November 4).

Gates will open at 6pm at the Testwood Stadium with the fireworks set off from 7.30-8pm.

There will be live music from tribute band Abba's Angels in the Monarch Suite, a small funfair and hot food available.

Tickets, priced £5 adults, £3 under-16s or £14 per family (two adults, two children), are available in advance from the Testwood Stadium or by emailing chairman@afctotton.com.

All of those who attend the firework display, sponsored by Totton College, will be entered into a draw for a chance to win £100.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

NON-LEAGUE FIXTURES

Monday, October 31
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Team Solent v Alresford Town (*free entry)

Tuesday, November 1
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Biggleswade v Stratford, Chippenham v Redditch, Merthyr v Kettering, St Neots v Banbury.
Division One South & West: Evesham v Winchester City, Hereford v Larkhall, Salisbury v Swindon Supermarine, Taunton v Slough.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bournemouth Poppies v Amesbury Town.

SWL Cup: AFC Stoneham v Ringwood, Downton v Totton & Eling, Lymington Town v Bemerton HH, New Milton v Fareham Town, Tadley Calvea v Blackfield & Langley.

PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
AFC Portchester v Paulsgrove Res, Baffins MR v Horndean, Moneyfields v Budd.

DORSET SENIOR CUP
First round: Dorchester Town v Portland Utd, Poole Town v Shaftesbury.

ALDERSHOT SENIOR CUP
Second round: British Army v Fleet Spurs (7.30), Fleet Town v Alton (7.30).

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Andover Lions v Winchester Castle (TBC).

Wednesday, November 2
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup: Whitchurch v Laverstock & Ford, Division One: Christchurch v Romsey Town.

DORSET SENIOR CUP
First round: Verwood Town v Weymouth.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Locks Heath v Bush Hill.

NORTH HANTS INTERMEDIATE CUP
First round: Alresford Res v Overton Res.

Friday, November 4
EMIRATES FA CUP
First round: Eastleigh v Swindon Town (BBC2, 7.55pm).

Saturday, November 5
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Forest Green v Aldershot, North Ferriby v Wrexham.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bath City v Concord, Bishops Cleeve v Weston-super-Mare, East Thurrock v Maidenhead, Ebbsfleet v Truro, Gosport Borough v Welling, Hampton & Richmond v Oxford City, Hemel Hempstead v Wealdstone, Poole Town v Chelmsford.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Biggleswade v Dunstable, Chippenham v Hayes & Yeading, Cirencester v Banbury, Frome v Cambridge City, Kings Lynn v Cinderford, Kings Langley v Dorchester, Leamington v Basingstoke Town, Redditch v St Neots, Slough v Hitchin, St Ives v Kettering, Weymouth v Merthyr.

Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Bridgwater, Barnstaple v Evesham, Hereford v Bideford, Larkhall v Salisbury, Slough v Didcot, Swindon Supermarine v Winchester City, Tiverton v Shortwood Utd, Wantage v Mangotsfield, Wimborne v North Leigh, Yate v Paulton Rovers.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bashley, Andover Town v Hamworthy Utd, Bemerton HH v Newport IOW, Blackfield & Langley v Whitchurch, Cowes Sports v Alresford, Fareham Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Fawley v Amesbury, Horndean v Portland, Lymington Town v Team Solent, Sholing v Brockenhurst, Verwood v Moneyfields.

Division One: Romsey Town v AFC Stoneham (2.00), Baffins MR v Shaftesbury, Downton v Alton, Fleet Spurs v US Portsmouth, Folland Sports v Weymouth Res, Laverstock & Ford v Totton & Eling, New Milton v East Cowes Vics, Pewsey Vale v Hythe & Dibden, Ringwood v Andover NS, Tadley Calvea v Christchurch.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Andover Lions v Hedge End Rangers (TBC), Infinity v Hayling Utd, Stockbridge v Liss Athletic.

Division One: Lyndhurst v Headley Utd.

Combination: Bush Hill v Clanfield, Four Marks v Paulsgrove, Hayling v QK Southampton, Headley v Fleetlands, Michelmarsh & Timbury v Liphook.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
Second round: Andover Lions v Alresford Town Res, Bournemouth Sports v South Wonston Swifts, Braishfield v Bush Hill, Chamberlayne Ath v Four Marks, Clanfield v Team Solent Res, ECS v Overton Utd Res, Fleetlands v US Portsmouth Res, Fleet Spurs Res v Golden Common, Hedge End Rangers Res v AFC Stoneham Res, Horndean Hawks v Netley Central Sports, Liphook v Winchester Castle Res, Locks Heath v Bournemouth Res, Overton v Petersfield Town Res, Paulsgrove v Romsey Town Res, Portsmouth Water v AFC Petersfield, QK Southampton v Alton Res, Shanklin v Upham, Whitecroft & Barton v Sway, Winchester Castle v Tadley Calvea Res.

Luffman has high hopes for latest signings

ALRESFORD Town have high hopes for their two latest signings.

The Magpies have brought in John Cole from Sydenhams Premier rivals Blackfield & Langley and are keen to help Lukas McCartney find his feet in the senior game after outstanding reviews as a youngster.

Cole, a former AFC Stoneham player, had made 11 appearances for Blackfield before switching camps to Arlebury Park late last week. With the help of the Wa-

tersiders, the Magpies got him signed on in time to feature in a rollercoaster 5-3 FA Vase first round win over Southern Combination League outfit Lingfield.

"John's a really good footballer," said Alresford boss Richard Luffman. "He's a No10 really, an attacking midfielder, but we played him up top in the Vase game. He's in his late 20s, but he looks and plays like a 22-year-old. All he wants to do is shut down the opposition and press which fits in well with the way we play.

"I think he felt disappointed to be dropped for some of the big names at Blackfield.

"But, to be fair to them, they were a big help in getting his transfer through on Friday so he could play in the Vase. There was nothing in it for Blackfield, but they really helped us out."

McCartney, who can play either centre-back or centre-forward, was a hot youth prospect but has been held back by injury.

"He's had bad knee problems and we've helped him with his

physio treatment," Luffman explained.

"As a kid, everyone was talking about him.

"He was with Saints and Eastleigh and was seen as the next big thing coming through the youth academy.

"Stuart Munro (Alresford chairman) used to manage against him and said he was the best young kid he'd seen at that age. Lukas is still only 19 now and he looks just like (boxer) Anthony Joshua. He's fit, strong and 6ft 4in."

Thick fog forces abandonment

Wendy Gee



SALISBURY'S midweek league clash at Paulton Rovers was abandoned due to poor visibility.

The Evo-Stik Southern One South & West encounter was goalless when it was halted after 30 minutes, with thick fog enveloping the Winterfield Road stadium.

Referee Stephen Oakey initially stopped the action for a 15-minute break, hoping the weather would improve. Instead it deteriorated.

Salisbury's on-loan Sutton United striker Tommy Wright had come closest to finding the net when he met a cross but poked the ball wide.

Among the Whites' travelling fans was Liam Brown, who runs the Salisbury Supporters' Club Twitter account.

He reported: "From the start, it seemed to be in doubt, but leading up to kick-off it did start to clear.

"It was looking like it was slowly getting better, but suddenly the fog truly descended and that's when the referee called the players off.

"As we left, it did seem like the right decision as visibility was just getting worse and worse.

"It is annoying that we'll have to make the trip again as it means another matchday added to the busy fixture list.

"But it's very good of Paulton Rovers to have announced that the replay will be free admission. A very good gesture on their part."

The new date agreed is Tuesday, December 20.

● ON-LOAN attacker Olly Mehew left Salisbury on a high.



Olly Mehew left Salisbury on a high, going on as a substitute for the 5-0 thrashing of Barnstaple Town

Before being recalled by parent club Forest Green Rovers, the youngster went on as a 63rd-minute substitute for the Whites in their 5-0 thrashing of Barnstaple Town in the Southern One South & West last weekend.

Mehew, 18, joined Salisbury on a three-month loan deal but Forest Green, the Vanarama National

League leaders, exercised their right to call him back after the first month.

The highlight of his loan spell was his man-of-the-match display in the astonishing 10-0 Southern League Challenge Cup dismantling of Dorchester Town. Mehew bagged a first-half hat-trick that night as the Whites marched in

7-0 up at the break.

He has now rejoined former Whites Robbie Sinclair, Matt Tubbs and Elliott Frear at the New Lawn.

Salisbury proved deadly in front of goal against Barnstaple too with Tommy Wright (penalty), Kane O'Keefe, Justin Bennett (2) and Lewis Benson on target.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Lew beauty! Clarke return boosts the Blues



PORTLAND RETURN: Lewis Clarke

SYDENHAMS League outfit Portland United have pepped up their strikeforce with the return of Lewis Clarke.

Clarke was one of the Dorset Premier League's most prolific marksmen in his former spell with the Blues.

In the 2013/14 season, he netted 19 times in just 22 appearances.

Now, after being in and out of the Weymouth Reserves set-up, he has linked up again with Portland in the Wessex Premier Division.

"It was an easy decision to bring him back," said Blues boss Gary Bailey.

"We have a small catchment in this area and, when proven goal-scorers and quality players become available, it's something you have to be interested in.

"I enjoyed working with him last time he was at the club and, hopefully, he can recapture the form he showed the first time he was here.

"He knows he needs

to knuckle down and work on his fitness and sharpness, but he is a professional lad and he will get that back now he is fully focused.

"A fully focused Lewis Clarke has goals in him and that's what we are looking to get."

Portland now stand between Blackfield & Langley and a place in the FA Vase third round.

The Blues, who squeezed past Sydenhams One underdogs Romsey Town 3-2 at the Bypass Ground last Saturday with goals from Tom Richardson (2) and Max Buckler, will entertain the Watersiders on Saturday, November 12.

Blackfield have already triumphed 2-1 at Grove Corner in the Sydenhams Premier Division this season with Carl Preston and sub Tim Sills on target.

Portland were victorious again on Tuesday night, winning 3-0 at Amesbury Town in the league - Buckler, Richardson and Jamie Beasley on target.

Taunton's repeat aim

Richard Taunton's hope to repeat their recent 5-2 Hampshire Colleges victory over Sparsholt when the teams meet again in the opening round of the Peter Munro Cup at Hill Lane on Wednesday (2pm).

Farnborough begin their cup defence against St Vincent, while Itchen have a bye.

Wednesday's ties:

Brookenhurst v Barton Peveril, Farnborough v St Vincent, Havant v Andover, Peter Symonds v South Downs, Richard Taunton v Sparsholt, Queen Mary's v Alton.

Bay House defend the B Cup at Totton College.

Fixtures: B Cup: Hampshire Collegiate v Fareham, Highbury v Fareham, King Edwards v Basingstoke, Totton v Bay House.



Joe Sutherden.

● Joe Sutherden, who skipped Kings' of Winchester to last season's Hampshire Schools' Under-16 Cup victory over Romsey, is knocking hard on the door for a Peter Symonds' first team call up.

The midfielder has banged in nine goals in two second team matches and is hopeful for a place in Wednesday's starting line up against South Downs.

● Locks Heath progressed to the third round of the Portsmouth Senior Cup in midweek with victory over their Hampshire Premier League top flight rivals Hayling United.

Ben Chambers opened the scoring in the fourth minute before Adam Wiltshire converted a penalty shortly after the hour mark. Chris Sales completed the scoring in the 89th minute.

Eastleigh trip is cash lifeline, says Power

NEXT Friday's FA Cup tie at Eastleigh will provide a much-needed boost to Swindon Town's accounts, but chairman Lee Power admits it will not be an easy task to progress.

Despite being two leagues above their National League opponents, only 38 places separate the two sides and Swindon's run of one win in their last seven outings make the November 4 first round showdown a precarious one for the League One side, *writes MATTHEW EDWARDS*.

As a result of a potential upset on the cards, with Eastleigh claiming the scalp of Crewe Alexandra at the same stage last season before eventually succumbing to then-Championship side Bolton Wanderers in a third round replay, the BBC have chosen to air the clash live from the Silverlake Stadium (BBC2 7.55pm).



Swindon chairman Lee Power says Eastleigh will be 'smelling blood'

Power, along with many at Town, are not taking the game lightly and hope to keep the fire-

works to a minimum on the eve of Bonfire Night against Ronnie Moore's men.

"It's a really difficult tie," he told BBC Wiltshire.

"I think if you were to pull out a tie you didn't want, it was probably going down there.

"They have got a big budget. They are a strong team in that league and they will be smelling blood.

"If we turn up and play the way we can play, we will beat anyone, so we definitely won't be fearing it, but we'll be respecting them.

"It is fairly local as well so hopefully we will sell out our allocation. It should be a good atmosphere and it is handy that it is on the telly as well - it brings a few pounds into the coffers."

Eastleigh donated their proceeds from their fourth qualifying round win over North Leigh

to their eighth-tier opponents.

However, Power has admitted that he plans to use the extra cash from being on television to help keep Swindon on an even keel following a drop-off in attendances at the County Ground.

"I think (with) the BBC, it's just under £70,000 that each club gets, which is a lot of money," he added.

"I think everyone is aware as well that the gates have been poor this season.

"I understand why. The football has been very poor. That is what happens in football. You don't need to be a rocket scientist.

"Obviously, that money helps because I run this business that way.

"It has got to break even and that money is helpful to replace the money that we've lost in the last few matches."

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Killick hails magic Marv

TOM Killick hailed Marvin Brooks's dramatic late decider as Poole Town returned to winning ways at Hungerford Town last weekend.

The contest seemed destined to peter out into a 0-0 draw before AFC Bournemouth youngster Sam Surridge's inch-perfect free-kick in second-half stoppage-time picked out fit-again Brooks, who nodded expertly into the far corner.

Victory was the perfect response to a lacklustre home defeat to Oxford City the previous weekend and Dolphins boss Killick - whose side climbed to the heady heights of fourth in the Vanarama National League South - was delighted to take three points, particularly given he would have been satisfied with a draw.

"I can't remember a



WINNER: Poole Town's Marvin Brooks (red and white)

game where there has been more than one goal between the teams and this game never looked likely to be an exception to that," he said.

"If we had come away with a 0-0 draw I think we would have been relatively pleased. So to win it in dramatic fashion was a big boost.

"I'm pleased for Marvin. It's his first goal since he came back from a long absence. He's still getting back to full match fitness and the goal was good for him.

"Sam Surridge is really showing his quality. Against two powerful and experienced centre-halves in a difficult game where there was very little football being played by either side, he showed he could look after himself and did a really good job for us."

Killick added: "I don't think Hungerford will drop many points at home."

Cracker-Jack! Pyatt's debt to Odam

JOHN Pyatt wishes to thank young striker Jack Odam for his assistance in managing Lymington Town.

With Pyatt weighed down by work commitments, ex-AFC Totton and Bashley frontman Odam proved himself a wise old head on young shoulders running the side in the boss's absence.

Pyatt, who officially handed over the team reins to former Folland Sports boss Dave Lewis this week, explained: "Jack's been helping me out making the managerial decisions for the last two or three months.

"He's not been able to play after having a knee operation in June, but he wanted to stay involved in the club.

"Jack's had the nod to intensify his training and he should be back playing by Christmas.

"He'll carry on helping out with a bit of coaching and he'll be scoring goals again in the new year."

Having paid for Odam's cruciate knee ligament operation, Lymington may find themselves doing the same for defender Tim Stephenson.

The former AFC Bournemouth youngster was carried off midway through the first half at Cowes Sports last Saturday, also with suspected knee ligament damage.

Pyatt said: "We'll get an MRI scan sorted for Tim and look after him the same as we did Jack.

"We don't break the bank payment-wise for players, just some bits and pieces of expenses, but we do look after them.

"We recognise people have got to work and that there's life outside football."

Jack Odam (black/white) has been praised by outgoing Lymington Town boss John Pyatt for his efforts in running the side



Pyatt: Why I had to stand down as Lymo manager

Wendy Gee



'WORK commitments' is a familiar - some might say over-used - reason for stepping down as a non-League manager.

But, in the case of Lymington Town's John Pyatt, it is absolutely true.

As a 50 per cent shareholder in Nationwide Concreting Ltd, he has been rushed off his feet at work and unable to give his beloved club the attention they deserve - hence this week's appointment of the two Daves, Lewis and Herbert, in the manager/assistant roles at Southampton Road.

Explaining his decision to stand down, Pyatt - who will continue as a major force behind the scenes for Lymo - said: "Work's gone mad. Two of us run Nationwide Concreting and, much as I love Lymington, I can't do the manager's job justice.

"We've got some good players there and it's not fair on the lads.



Dave Lewis, right, has stepped into John Pyatt's shoes at Lymington



"The club's going through a transitional period. We'll have a new clubhouse by this time next year.

"It's all starting to take shape now. We've got the funding in from the Football Foundation, a bit from the council and a bit from us. It's gone out to tender and it's down to the council now to decide

who is going to do the work,

"We'll be changing out of Portakabins for a while and, at this time of change, it's important we keep the unity here and hold things together ready for next year."

Lewis is no newcomer to management. For many successful years he was coach/assistant to

Danny Bowers at Folland Sports before stepping into the hot seat himself.

His right-hand man Herbert was also part of the backroom set-up at Follands Park and rode to the Planemakers' rescue as manager last season during a time of turmoil.

"I'd been waiting for the right manager to come along and I've known Lewy (Dave Lewis) for years," said Pyatt.

"He's a good footballing person and his values are good. He understands that you only get out of football what you put in."

Lewis was introduced to the players at half-time last Saturday during Lymo's 3-2 Sydenhams Premier Division loss at Cowes Sports.

The new boss was sent from the dugout in his first game in charge on Tuesday, but at least got the right result.

A feisty New Forest derby ended 2-1 in Lymo's favour against Bashley with former Totton & Eling hotshot Sam House plundering the winning goals.

PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Holmes left fuming after challenge goes unpunished



INJURY: Luke Holmes

WIMBORNE Town boss Matty Holmes was critical of referee James Robinson after Luke Holmes had been crocked during Tuesday's 4-0 defeat by Southern One South & West rivals Bideford.

Midfielder Holmes, who had only just returned from an enforced lay-off, is facing another spell on the sidelines after taking a heavy blow to the same left ankle during the closing stages at Cuthbury.

He received treatment from physio John Edwards before being helped off the pitch, with referee Robinson deeming the challenge fair and taking no action against the Bideford player involved.

Manager Holmes said: "I thought the referee got it totally wrong. Luke nicked the ball and was on his way before the lad came straight through the side of him. I don't see what the referee saw.

"From how it looks, it's not great. We won't know until we get it assessed, but he could be out for a few weeks."

Asked whether he had been angry at the incident, Holmes replied: "I think they could be prevented if referees were a little stronger.

"These lads have to go to work and if someone goes to kick their ankles – and I wouldn't say put them out of the game – it's not

right, especially at this level."

Holmes was left to lament "individual mistakes" as Wimborne conceded four times after the break, having been in the ascendancy in the first half.

Billy Tucker, James Richards, Kevin Squire and Angus Wilson netted for the Devonians, while Magpies' Billy Maybury had a second-half penalty saved by Josh Colwill.

"It might sound strange, but I thought we dominated the game," added Holmes. "Although we weren't great for the first 15 minutes, we got into the game and kept possession well. We were in control and then individual mistakes cost us."

Taylor is driving force for cup win

Wendy Gee



JAMES Taylor quite literally steered Team Solent to FA Vase success in Cornwall last weekend.

Not only did he oversee the team's 2-1 first-round victory at Helston Athletic – he spent more than six hours behind the wheel of the minibus driving them there!

"Apparently this was the furthest any team had travelled to play Helston in their 120-year history," said team boss Taylor. "It was a good occasion down there and they made a big thing out of it.

"I was driving the minibus and it took us six-and-a-half hours to get down there.

"We travelled down on Friday and it was just a bad on the road that day. We got stuck behind every caravan and slow-moving vehicle imaginable!

"There was some sort of slow-moving convoy between Wimborne and Dorchester and we hit roadworks later on.

"It only took us four hours and 20 minutes on the way back, which is how it should have been.

"I'm glad it's over, but it all ended well and that's the main thing."

Helston, hosting Vase football for the first time ever at Kellaway Park, were overwhelmed by the Students in the opening 45 minutes and, but for the heroics of goalkeeper Barrie Wyatt, would have been deep in arrears.



Team Solent (red) put the pressure on Helston goalkeeper Barrie Wyatt

As it turned out, Solent led by just a single goal at the break – a 33rd-minute 25-yard rocket shot from Tyrell Mitford which hit the bar and bounced down over the line.

Mitford struck again on 52 minutes when Jesse Waller-Lassen found acres of space on the right, dashed into the area and squared for the former QPR trainee to convert the simplest of tap-ins.

Helston went for broke with a couple of substitutions and, although Solent still carried a serious goal threat, sub Mattie Buchan set up a thrilling finale by scoring with 25 minutes to go.

The Students weathered the storm and Helston's new signing Joel Allen came off the bench to deny Solent's Silvano Obeng a certain goal with a tremendous last-ditch tackle.

"We were dominant first half but, as usual, we didn't put our chances away," said Taylor.

"To be fair, their keeper has made five or six good saves.

"Tyrell scored from 25 yards, but it should probably have been three or four at half-time.

"It was closer in the second half than the first. They went for it and they did get a goal, but we always looked like scoring."

Free entry

THERE will be FREE entry at Team Solent on Monday (7.45pm) for their rearranged Sydenhams Premier Division showdown with Alresford Town.

The original match on the opening night of the season was abandoned in the first half due to a serious injury.

With just 27 minutes on the clock, Solent full-back Myles Keizer-Burrows suffered an horrific double leg break, bringing play to a halt with Richard Luffman's Alresford leading 2-0.

Solent are therefore inviting everyone in for free at Test Park for the rematch to make amends to those who paid the £6/£3 entry fee without getting to see a whole game first time round.

Team Solent rose to tenth in the Sydenhams Premier in midweek with a 2-1 win at Fareham Town. Jesse Waller-Lassen bagged both goals.

'Good draw'

HAVING clocked up the miles beating Hythe & Dibden (2-1), Hallen (3-1) and Helston (2-1) away from home in the Vase, it comes as no surprise to Team Solent to be hitting the road again in the second round proper.

Wessex newcomers Shaftesbury will host the Southampton Solent University side on Saturday, November 12.

"It would be a huge shock if we ever got a home tie!" smiled Solent boss James Taylor. "But it's a good draw. We played Shaftesbury last year in the Vase at home and beat them 4-1."

Shaftesbury's debut first round appearance ended with a 3-1 win at AFC Stoneham last Saturday.

Having opened the scoring through Jason Beal, the Rockies were pegged back by Chris Morris's leveller at the Elliotts Arena.

But the Dorset visitors emerged triumphant thanks to a Lee Gale free-kick and a Mark Ford penalty.

THE BUILDBASE FA VASE

Second round (local ties, to be played Saturday, November 12): Buckland Ath v Newport IoW, Cullompton Rangers v Bemerton HH or Plymouth Parkway, Corinthian v Alresford Tn, Croydon v Andover Tn, Moneyfields v Thatcham Tn, Portland Utd v Blackfield & Langley, Shaftesbury v Team Solent.

Cycling row

British Cycling have announced that an internal investigation had upheld Jess Varnish's complaint of "inappropriate and discriminatory language" against former technical director Shane Sutton.

Here, the Sports Pink outlines the timeline of events.

March 2

Jess Varnish and Katy Marchant finish fifth in the two-woman, two-lap team sprint at the Track World Championships in London and fail to qualify for the Rio Olympics. Both riders blamed selection errors during the two-year qualification period. "I feel sick," said Varnish. "This is through absolutely no fault of our own. We're fifth in the world, we've beaten so many of the teams, this is the best we've ever competed and we're not going to the Olympics." Sutton said: "We need to put to bed any crisis between the coaches and the riders. There's no repercussions for anybody."



Jess Varnish.

April 20

Sutton reveals that Varnish has been dropped from British Cycling's elite squad. He denied it had anything to do with her outspoken comments in London and pointed to performances.

April 22

Varnish, 25, alleges Sutton told her to "just move on and go and have a baby". Varnish added: "After 2012 I was told that, 'with an ass like mine I couldn't change position within the team sprint'. It basically implies the stronger woman has to go in 'man one' position because I'm quite glute dominant, shall we say." Sutton denied making the comments.

April 24

Funding body UK Sport calls for Varnish's allegations to be investigated.

Continued on facing page

PINK

Big milestone for

By Simon Larkins

FORMER Saints star Matt Oakley has recently celebrated a major milestone.

Now 39, he made his 600th career league appearance for League 2 club Exeter City.

Of those, 262 appearances were for Saints between 1995 and 2006.

He left St Mary's in the summer of 2006 to join Derby on a free, moving onto Leicester City for £500,000 two years later.

He has been with Exeter - playing under former Dell colleague Paul Tisdale - since 2012.

Here, Simon Larkins discusses Oakley's career with him.

Q: You recently made your 600th league appearance in professional football. Was that something you were aware of and what does it mean to you?

MO: I stopped counting years ago, but it is obviously a nice milestone to make. I think 500 was back at Leicester and it is great, being 39 and still playing. I wasn't expecting that when I was first playing games, so I'm very, very pleased.

Q: Your league debut was back in 1995 for Saints. Can you remember much about that game?

MO: Yes, my league debut was at Everton. It was May time, one of the last games of the season. Alan Ball was my manager and he had seen me playing in youth team and he wanted to take me with the first team. I thought I was just going along to support and help out with kit, but I ended up being named on the bench. It was last 10 or 15 minutes I came on for.

Q: Can you remember who was in that team and who you came on for?

MO: I don't remember who I came on for, but I remember playing against Anders Limpar. He was one of the players who I liked when he was at Arsenal as I was an Arsenal fan. Neville Southall was in goal, so there were some big names in that Everton side. I don't remember much about the 10 to 15 minutes that I got at the end, but I remember shaking Neville's hand and it being the size of a dust bin lid.

Q: There were some really big names in the Saints side at that time as well. What were those characters like?

MO: That was around the time when the foreign players were coming in, but we had strong



A great black and white picture of Matt Oakley celebrating a goal for Saints against Norwich in April 2005.

British and Irish core to our team with people like Jason Dodd, Francis Benali, Matt Le Tissier, Jim Magilton and Dave Beasant. There were some big, big characters there and then we had the foreign lads coming in. So we had the likes of Claus Lundekvam, Egil Østenstad, Eyal Berkovic and Anders Svensson. We had some really good quality coming in. We

had the games when we beat Manchester United 6-3 and the other game where Manchester United blamed their kit. The 6-3 was an interesting game, I played it that one and it was pretty special.

Q: It must have been a great to play at the Dell also?

MO: Yes, it was a tough place to go. You played on that ground and

the ball would go out for a throw and, if you were in the crowd, you could literally grab a player. So the away teams didn't like playing there at all and we got some really good results because of that.

Q: Looking at that Premier League era and midfielders you would have come up against, it was a time where the division

PINK

ex-Saint Oakley



Top - Matt Oakley scores for Saints at Millwall in the 2002/03 FA Cup.



Middle - Matt Oakley joins Matt Le Tissier and Eyal Berkovic in celebrating a goal in the 6-3 win against Manchester United in 1996.



Bottom - Matt Oakley in action for Derby at St Mary's in the 2006/07 Championship play off semi final.

was blessed with top class players in the centre of the park. Who was the toughest of those players to play against?

MO: Patrick Veira, he was just a complete all-round midfielder. He was an athlete. He was strong and powerful, could score goals and tackle. I just thought he was the pinnacle. He also played for my club as well, so maybe I am a

little bit biased towards him because there are players like (Paul) Scholes, (David) Beckham, (Roy) Keane, Nicky Butt, (Steven) Gerrard and (Jamie) Redknapp who you could mention. In fact, the list goes on. However, Veira was the pinnacle.

Q: It was a great time to be at Saints as well?

MO: We had four years where it was really touch and go and Matt Le Tissier carried us with his goals, but then there was the transfer of a bit more of quality. The change of the stadium, from the Dell, attracted more investment and the team got stronger. Then we had (Theo) Walcott coming through, Wayne Bridge and (Gareth) Bale. You started seeing

the club evolve.

Q: Was it your injury troubles that ended your time at Saints?

MO: Yes, I was playing really well at the time. There had been a lot of talk about England and that was the golden era of midfield players in the Premier League. Then, out of the blue, I landed and went to turn and the next thing I felt a pop in my knee and two years later I was trying to find myself back playing. It was disappointing really, because I felt I was really fulfilling what I was going to do.

Q: Then you joined Derby County and captained them to promotion from the Championship?

MO: Yes, it was strange really because I was at St Mary's for nearly 12 years and I was loyal to the club and it wasn't until I left that had the success. The Derby team was unique at that point of being a very tight, tight group. We got up through the play-offs, we went to Wembley and I lifted the trophy. I got sold very quickly after that, though, when the board changed manager, and went to Leicester and then found myself in League One in the space of 12 months. Derby sold me a really big dream when Billy Davies was there. I was really close to Billy. He was explaining what was happening with the club and they were talking about a three-year plan, but we did it in the first year. And everyone says how poor Derby were in the Premier League but we were just building for the Championship as part of that three-year plan. We got promoted in the first year of that and we found ourselves up against the likes of Manchester United and Arsenal with a weakened Championship team. We were always going to go down and unfortunately the board changed and had the money from Sky and the TV rights. There was a new influx of players and I just didn't want to be part of that. I didn't see where the club was going so I left and went to Leicester.

Q: How would you look back at your time at Leicester?

Matt: I had some good times there. There were some really good people at that club. Obviously when I was there we went from Championship to League One, which was an experience for me, but we rebuilt and got some good players in. There were players that needed to go and it was freshened up and we had some good years under Nigel Pearson. He put in a structure at the club that they are now reaping the rewards from.

Continued on page 16

Cycling row

from facing page

April 26

Olympic champions Pendleton and Nicole Cooke publicly back Varnish over her comments. Multiple world champion Wendy Houvenaghel also supports the claims.

April 27

Sutton is suspended following further allegations, this time that he called para-cyclists "gimps" and "wobblers". He denies the allegations. British Cycling announces Sutton's suspension in the early hours of a Wednesday morning. Later that day he resigns as technical director. In a statement, he said: "I reject the specific claims that have been made against me in recent days."

April 29

British Cycling chief executive Ian Drake insists he was not aware of the allegations of discrimination towards para-cyclists. Drake said: "I have never been



Shane Sutton.

made aware, formally or informally, of any allegation that Shane Sutton had used the offensive term 'gimps' in reference to Paralympic athletes prior to the media reports of the past few days. The suggestion that I would have not acted on such an allegation is wholly wrong."

British Cycling and UK Sport announce in a joint statement that the review into allegations of bullying and discrimination will conclude after the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games and be led by Annamarie Phelps, the chair of British Rowing.

October 28

British Cycling uphold Varnish's complaint following an internal investigation and the national governing body's board apologise to her. The internal report was passed on to the independent review, which is ongoing.

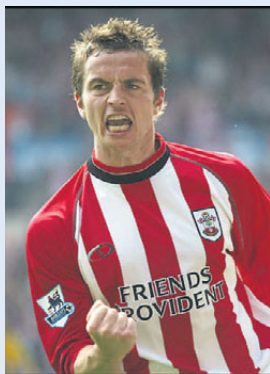
Matt Oakley

from page 15

Q: It was on next to Exeter City. How did that come about?

MO: It was interesting really. The rules changed and they took the seven subs down to five and that year was when Sven-Göran Eriksson had taken over. I got on really well with him. He signed an amount of players based on their being seven subs and think it was only a couple of weeks before the season that they changed the rules and I found myself sat in the stand alongside nine top starting players. I was not even making the bench so I said to Sven 'I don't want to sit around in the stands. I'm towards the end of my career and I want to play.' Then Paul (Tisdale) called me out of the blue and said: "What are you doing? Do you fancy coming and helping me out and helping with the young players." And I said: 'Yes, let's do it.' I have been here since.

Q: It is a player coach role you have now got at Exeter?



Matt Oakley

MO: I have signed a contract until January. I wasn't going to continue this season, but Paul spoke to me at the end of the season and said he'd like for me to continue. So we discussed things and he sees value in me being on the bench and helping with the coaching and being around for the last half an hour in games, because that is when certain decisions are being made. That is when he wants me to be around and I'm more than happy to do that.

Q: Is it coaching that you want to go into long term or tactical analysis?

MO: I like the analysis. I do that now. I will look at who we are playing next and do the pre-match analysis and, when time allows, I also do the post-match analysis. I like the psychology side of things as well, though. That is the route I see myself going down as I see psychology as a massive part of football.

PINK

Oakley joins an

By Simon
Carter



MATT Oakley recent celebrated reaching a major milestone.

The former Saints midfielder made his 600th English league appearance when he came on as a sub for Exeter City in a League 2 game at Colchester.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at other players with Saints connections who have played over 590 times in the Football League/Premier League.

1,005 - Peter Shilton

The former Saints keeper remains the only man ever to play over a thousand league games in English football.

His amazing career spanned 30 years - from making his debut for Leicester in 1966 to playing his 1,000th game for Leyton Orient aged 47 in December 1996.

Along the way, he won two European Cups and the First Division title with Nottingham Forest and played 188 times for Saints in a five-year stint at The Dell from 1982-97.

He also remains England's most capped international, with 125 caps.

824 - Terry Paine

The current Saints president made 713 league appearances for Saints between his debut in 1956 and 1974, scoring 150 goals and winning England recognition.

He then appeared 111 times for Hereford United.

Only three Englishman have played more Football League games than Paine did - Shilton, Tony Ford (931) and Graham Alexander (844).

774 - Dave Beasant

The much-travelled goalkeeper appeared for 13 different clubs in his career, including 91 league appearances for Saints after a £300,000 move from Chelsea in November 1993.

He will always be associated with Wimbledon, though, after saving a penalty in the club's 1988 FA Cup final win over Liverpool.

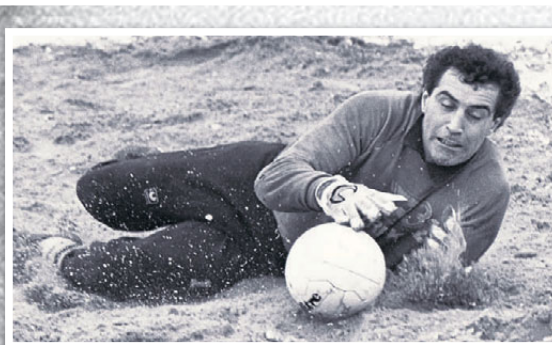
That was his last game for the Dons, as he joined Newcastle a few months later for £800,000.

Beasant was 44 when he played his last league game for Brighton in May 2003.

694 - John Burridge

Another goalkeeper who kept on playing into his forties.

In 1995 he became the oldest player to appear in the Premier League - a record he still holds -



Peter Shilton, above, and Terry Paine, main picture.



Saints v Leyton Orient
May 1966 Terry Paine goal.

when he turned out for Manchester City aged 43.

Burridge was signed by Saints boss Chris Nicholl from Sheffield United in the summer of 1987 and played 62 top flight games in two seasons.

757 - Frank Worthington

The colourful striker only

played 34 times for Saints - all his outings coming in the club's best ever First Division campaign of 1983/84.

Called time on his Football League career after a spell at Stockport in 1987/88, and even appeared four times in 1989 for Weymouth.

743 - Alan Ball

The England World Cup winner played 132 league games for Saints between late 1976 and 1980, prior to taking his first steps in management with Blackpool.

After leaving the Tangerines at the end of 1980/81, Ball returned to The Dell and made a further 63 league appearances before ending his career at Bristol Rovers in 1982/83.

PINK

exclusive club

Mick Channon, below, and Glenn Cockerill and Jimmy Case (bottom).



732 - Mick Mills

The full-back made almost 600 league appearances for Ipswich and captained England at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Was 33 when he arrived at The Dell after Espana 82, and he went on to make 103 league appearances for Saints before seeing out his

career at Stoke City.

718 - Mick Channon

The Dell legend played 391 league games in his first spell with the club between 1996 and 1977, and a further 119 times after returning in September 1979.

After being released by Saints in 1982, he made 88 league appear-

ances for Norwich City - helping them to win the League Cup in 1985 - before ending his career with 35 second tier outings for great friend Alan Ball at Portsmouth in 1985/86.

714 - Glenn Cockerill

A regular in the Saints midfield for eight years after his arrival

from Sheffield United in the summer of 1985, making 287 league appearances. Ended his career at Brentford in 1997/98. Spent a few months managing Winchester City in 2010.

647 - Chris Nicholl

The centre half appeared in 228 league games for Saints between 1977 and 1983, after making 210 appearances in a five-year stint at Aston Villa.

A veteran of 51 Northern Ireland caps, Nicholl ended his playing career at Grimsby in 1983/84 before taking his first steps in management at The Dell the following summer.

631 - Dave Watson

The centre half had played over 100 league games each for Rotherham, Sunderland and Manchester City prior to arriving at Saints in October 1979 in a £300,000 switch from German outfit Werder Bremen. Made 73 league appearances before joining Stoke City in January 1982.

628 - Kevin Miller

The goalkeeper made over 200 appearances for Exeter City and over 100 for Watford and Barnsley.

He appeared just seven times for Saints after George Burley brought the then 37-year-old to St Mary's in early 2006.

Played his last league games on loan to Torquay in 2006/07 before being released by Saints.

626 - Jimmy Case

Forever an Anfield legend after helping Liverpool win three European Cups in 1977, 1978 and 1981, Case actually played more league games for Saints (226) than he did for the Reds (186).

He was 31 when he became Lawrie McMenemy's last signing for Saints in March 1985.

Played his final league game for Brighton aged 41 in 1995/96, the season he took over from Liam Brady as the Seagulls' manager.

595 - Dennis Wise

Released by Saints as a teenager, Wise went on to make 135 appearances in Wimbledon's rise from the fourth tier to the top flight.

Then made 332 appearances in an 11-year stay at Chelsea.

After a spell as Millwall player manager, whom he guided to the 2004 FA Cup final, Wise returned to Saints and made 11 appearances under Harry Redknapp in 2005/06.

Assisted his former Wimbledon boss Dave Bassett as caretaker manager at St Mary's when Redknapp returned to Portsmouth, before leaving in January 2006 to join Coventry.

Don't write Chelsea off

Antonio Conte believes it is too soon for Sir Alex Ferguson or anyone else to write off Chelsea's Premier League title chances.

Chelsea beat Jose Mourinho's Manchester United 4-0 last Sunday, but former United boss Ferguson suggested the 2014-15 champions were not one of five teams in title contention this term.

The Blues have played nine games, which included losses to Arsenal and Liverpool, and Conte believes he needs eight to 10 more games before setting a goal for the end of the season.

"It's very difficult to tell now our target," the Chelsea head coach said ahead of this Sunday's trip to St Mary's to face Saints.

"Because it's early and in these games, we had difficulty against Arsenal and Liverpool.

"For this reason it's important not to look at the table. It's important to understand this type of work we're doing now is good to improve and to become a



Antonio Conte

strong team.

"A bit of time in the future, yes, after I think eight, 10 (more) games, I can tell our target."

Conte insisted he respects Ferguson's opinion, but refused to put limitations on what his squad can achieve.

"I respect a lot what he said, but I know that we are working very well," the former Juventus and Italy boss added.

"We are now in a good way to improve a lot and to become a team that can stay (in contention) till the end to get something.

"Our ambition must be always to play to win every game. Always. It's important.

"I try to transfer this to my players in every moment, in every day, every week. We must be ambitious. But to be ambitious you must work a lot."

Conte added: "I'm very happy for the work that we are doing. And I'm sure that if we continue in this way, we can have good satisfaction."

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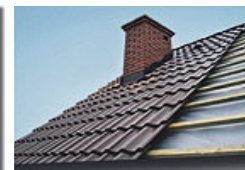
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Etiquette

Jose Mourinho offered his Chelsea counterpart Antonio Conte some lengthy words of wisdom after seeing his Manchester United side slump to a 4-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge, with some reports saying he was lecturing the Italian on his touchline conduct.

Here, the Sports Pink considers some other lessons from the Mourinho book of etiquette.

DO self-aggrandise

Working up a home crowd at 4-0 might be beyond the pale for Mourinho, but he has never had a problem with pumping up his own tyres. He will forever be remembered for anointing himself as a "special one" on his arrival in England, but it was hardly a unique incident and he has never been shy of trumpeting his own achievements.

"Why have Chelsea suffered so much since I left? Because I left," he said in 2009.

DON'T lose perspective



Antonio Conte

Speaking a decade ago Mourinho claimed the only thing that was troubling him came from north of the border. Rather than a reference to then Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, it was a sickly swan that had caught his attention. "For me, pressure is bird flu," he opined. "I'm feeling a lot of pressure with the problem in Scotland. What is football compared with life? A swan with bird flu, for me, that is the drama. I have to buy some masks and stuff."

DO celebrate important goals

Mourinho's first major impact on English football came when his unfancied Porto side knocked United out of the Champions League at Old Trafford. An injury-time goal from Costinha settled matters and the young manager leapt to his feet, racing along the touchline in joy. Cont on facing page.

PINK

SAINTS

Puel proving the

By Simon Carter



Claudio Ranieri was the original tinkerman.

He was given the sobriquet by sections of the English national media regarding his constant rotation of the Chelsea squad.

Ranieri, though, surely never tinkered to the extent Claud Puel has in his first few months at Southampton FC.

Ahead of Saints' daunting run of autumn games, the Frenchman said he would fully utilise his full squad - including youngsters who had barely been on the fringes under Ronald Koeman.

He has been true to his word. He has tinkered over and over again.

Going into this weekend's home clash with Chelsea, Puel has made an extraordinary 67 changes in ten league and cup matches.

In all, he has used 26 different players.

Twenty of those changes have come in the last three games.

Puel made six changes for Saints' Europa League tie at Inter Milan, followed by a further five at Manchester City last Sunday.

Then came nine more - a season high - for Wednesday's League Cup tie against Sunderland (compared to the four made by Black Cats boss David Moyes).

The sheer number of changes is remarkable enough.

But what's even more incredible, in some ways, is that Puel has made Saints so hard to beat despite the constant chopping and changing - and the injuries that have hit Ryan Bertrand, Matt Targett, Cedric, Shane Long and Jay Rodriguez.

In those ten games, Saints have only lost once - and that at the San Siro after dominating large periods of the game.

And in the 15 and a half hours of football in those games, Saints have only conceded three goals - one of which was a soft penalty to Burnley when they were 3-0 up.

That is truly impressive, and must surely have helped Puel win over his critics.

Let's be honest, there WERE some critics - those who thought Saints should have appointed a bigger name than the former Monaco, Lyon, Lille and Nice boss. A name like Manuel Pellegrini, or a name like Frank de Boer.

But the reasons why Puel beat everyone else on the Saints shortlist have become obvious in amongst all the tinkering and the clean sheets.

He believes in giving young players a chance.

More so than his predecessor,



Sam McQueen has made a big impact at left back in recent games.

certainly.

Puel has already used 21 players in the Premier League this term.

A further six - Alex McCarthy, Jake Hesketh, Lloyd Isgrove, Jack Stephens, Harrison Reed and Olufena Olomola - have appeared in the League Cup.

They are similar numbers to the ones his predecessor used.

Koeman used 29 players in

the Premier League in 2014/15, though five of them - Ryan Seager, Dominic Gape, Jason McCarthy, Gaston Ramirez and Isgrove - only appeared once off the bench.

Last season, Koeman used 27 players in the league. Of those, Paolo Gazzaniga only made two starts and Kelvin Davis one, while Ramirez (3) and Reed (1) only appeared as a sub.

During Koeman's two years at St Mary's, Stephens and McQueen never featured in the first team - not even in a cup tie.

Stephens didn't even appear under Mauricio Pochettino.

Indeed, prior to starting against Sunderland, his only other taste of competitive first team action had been as a late sub at Coventry in the FA Cup in January 2012.

PINK

SAINTS

master tinkerer



Lloyd Isgrove in action against Sunderland in the League Cup.



Harrison Reed, right, got a rare first team chance against Sunderland.



Jack Stephens got a rare Saints chance in midweek.

That is a hell of a wait between first and second appearances.

Stephens was sent out on loan for most of Koeman's tenure at Saints, while McQueen spent the second half of last season on loan at third tier Southend United. Even there, though, he struggled for starts - making just four (compared to 14 sub appearances).

Lloyd Isgrove, to name another,

was loaned out to League 1 club Barnsley last season.

He only played one league game for Koeman, and that was as a sub in the Dutchman's first game in charge at Anfield in August 2014.

His League Cup outing against Sunderland was his first senior appearance since a second half sub outing against Ipswich in the FA Cup in January 2015.

Prior to a few weeks ago, McQueen's only senior outing for Saints' first team had come in the FA Cup at Sunderland in February 2013.

No wonder he told the Daily Echo this week that he thought his Saints future appeared bleak.

"You go out on loan because you want to learn so you can come back here and play, but I was

thinking maybe my opportunities in football may be elsewhere in the future," he confessed.

Of course, we need to be realistic here.

Just because Koeman didn't give these players many opportunities, it doesn't mean he had no interest in promoting Saints' academy graduates.

And just because Puel has given them a chance - albeit in some cases just the one chance so far - that doesn't mean they will become established top flight stars.

Time is certainly ticking for the likes of Stephens, who is 22, and Isgrove, who is 23.

The latter is a year older than Nathan Redmond.

Pierre Hojbjerg and James Ward-Prowse (who has played 114 league games for Saints) are younger than both Stephens and Isgrove. They are both 21, as is McQueen.

Soufiane Boufal, Saints' record signing, has only just recently turned 23.

You get the impression that Stephens and Isgrove's long term futures lie away from St Mary's, if they ever want regular first team football that is.

The same might yet apply to McQueen, who is a man of the moment but who remains third choice left back behind Ryan Bertrand and Matt Targett.

The same might yet apply also to Harrison Reed, who is 21 but only has 14 league appearances to his name - 100 fewer than Ward-Prowse, who is the same age.

Then there is Jake Hesketh, who would surely have featured against Sunderland but for injury.

Handed a rare chance against Crystal Palace in the previous round, Hesketh capped a man of the match performance with a goal.

The 21-year-old did appear in two league games under Koeman in December 2014.

After coming on as a sub against Manchester United, he was handed a start against Burnley - only to come off injured early on. That was the last we saw of him in a first team shirt prior to the Palace game.

Like Stephens, like Reed, like Isgrove, like McQueen, he needs more senior matches. But will he get them?

Saints fans are no different to any other football supporters. Ideally, they would like to see home-grown youngsters getting a chance - but not to the detriment of a successful side.

The key is the same as it's always been - trying to mix the youth with the experience.

Different managers have different methods, and at the moment Puel seems to be getting the balance right.

Etiquette

from facing page

Presumably Conte would have been forgiven for such a reaction had Chelsea's victory on Sunday been more marginal and come later.

DON'T be quiet in the stands

Such was his position of strength at Chelsea in 2014, Mourinho felt bold enough to breach one of sport's oldest commandments: thou shalt not criticise your fans. After securing a 2-1 win over QPR, the Blues boss said the atmosphere created by a crowd of almost 42,000 people was akin to "an empty stadium".

DON'T criticise colleagues for doing their job

Mourinho was visibly irate when club doctor Eva Carneiro and physiotherapist Jon Fearn treated Eden Hazard late in a drawn match against Swansea, claiming the pair's actions were "impulsive and



Jose Mourinho.

naive". It was a row that simmered on and Carneiro, who was demoted and later left the club, settled a case for constructive dismissal and sexual discrimination. There was no official statement from Mourinho but Chelsea said they "regretted the circumstances which led to Dr Carneiro leaving the club and apologises unreservedly to her and her family".

DO prove your ethical credentials by spending big

As he prepared for Chelsea's ill-fated title defence at the start of last season, Mourinho considered the merits of adding some big-ticket items to his squad. He chose to paint his planned trolley dash as a point of principle. "The board has worked so well over the years in making money with sales that if somebody has the right - the moral right - to do that, then I say that Chelsea is one of them."

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

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The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

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Thursday
9am,
3rd Nov
2016
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 5th Nov or Sunday 6th Nov 2016

An incident in an Eastleigh v Northampton match

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Competition number S42

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J Biggs	Southampton, Hants	J Reynolds	Southampton, Hants
N Davis	Southampton, Hants	M Ricketts	Southampton, Hants
F Dunn	Holbury, Hants	A Sainsbury	Southampton, Hants
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Daily Echo

PINK

The week's big talking
points with Adam Leitch

ADAM RANT

Drugs suspicion turns Olympics into poorer spectacle



IT is rather hard to buy WADA president Craig Reedie's insistence that the integrity of the Olympics has not been undermined by the total farce of the drug testing process.

On the contrary, it seems to have undermined it still further.

We are now in an era where any great performance is deemed suspicious.

It is a sorry state of affairs, it tarnishes our love of sport. How-

ever, it is sadly inevitable after the last decade of scandals.

Probably most sports fans that watched the Olympics felt, like Adam Rant, a tinge of the magic of the event had gone.

It was replaced by a cynicism over whether what you were seeing was the result of talent and hard work combining to brilliant effect, or partly aided by drugs.

Even the boundaries of what is legal is being pushed to the limit

for the marginal gains so desired at the top level.

And, so, above all else what was needed was a stringent and effective drug testing programme at the Games, to try and establish the notion that cheats would not slip through the net.

Instead what we have seen when skimming the report from WADA's independent observers is an utter shambles.

On some days half of the

planned tests were cancelled because they couldn't find the athletes, in total there were 500 less tests than hoped for.

While much of the blame has effectively been laid at the door of logistics and inadequate training for volunteers, all that ultimately matters is that an Olympics already shrouded in suspicion has little in the way of counter agreement.

Puel becoming expert in the art of juggling

CLAUDE Puel will be doing well if he can remember what day of the week it is at the moment. To keep on top of squad rotation must be a mammoth task.

Saints are in the midst of seven games in 22 days.

Following their EFL Cup win over Sunderland, they face the even more daunting prospect of nine fixtures in just 30 days after the next international break.

That is some run of games.

There has always been a lot of talk about teams not taking the Europa League or other cups seriously, of the stresses and strains of playing in so many competitions, but only once you are in the midst of it can you fully appreciate the problems it causes.

With all the travel involved, it is confusing and tiring.

Simple things such as a normal routine in everyday life are thrown out, sleeping at odd times due to early starts or very late nights, eating patterns.

It sounds almost trivial, but it is amazing how quickly it all adds up to a confusing cocktail.

The players must not know what day of the week it is much of the time. Their usual routine has been totally thrown out.

Instead they are on one constant loop of match preparation, playing a game, recovery and then do it all over again.

There is no real time for much reflection, no real time to work on things on the training ground. It is always a case of just getting through one more game.

Through all of this though Puel has kept a clear head.

He has navigated through this set of fixtures fairly well thus far, and his planning is obvious in terms of selecting teams in advance of a run of games, even if you do have to adapt for injuries and circumstances that come



Sunderland manager David Moyes (left) and Southampton manager Claude Puel on the touchline during the EFL Cup match at St Mary's

your way.

This is a pretty big week for Saints in terms of the Europa League.

There can be little debate that Puel has to find a way to get his strongest team out on the field as Saints host Inter Milan at St

Mary's, and if that means it is weaker for a league game against Hull then so be it.

It is not only a huge fixture in terms of the historical context of the club, but also when it comes to getting through to the knockout stages.

Group K is wide open now. All of the four teams will believe they can get through heading into the last three games.

Decisive results on Thursday will make things look a lot different.

Should Saints win the Inter

match they will be confident of getting out of the group. Should they fail to win then it will be very nervous, especially if Sparta Prague end the night on nine points, and with Puel's men heading out there next.

What next?

Wayne Rooney can no longer be assured of a regular place in Manchester United's team having started just one of their previous six fixtures. What next for him?

THE MLS

The American dream is one that David Beckham, Ashley Cole, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard have all lived, though only the former was able to continue his international career while Stateside. The lifestyle may appeal but at his age a move across the Atlantic would surely spell the end for him as an England fixture.

CHINESE LEAGUE

Another destination that would harm his England prospects, although there would be significant compensation in the form of a bumper wage packet in the Far East. Clubs in China may be the only teams in the world willing to match or even eclipse the salary he commands at Old Trafford and he would be a significant coup for the league in the same way Beckham was for



Wayne Rooney.

the MLS.

EVERTON

A romantic return to Rooney's boyhood club has always been mooted, particularly as the icy receptions he used to endure at Goodison Park have thawed in recent years. Rooney wore blue again last summer for Duncan Ferguson's testimonial and was greeted warmly. Ronald Koeman this week refused to rule it out.

STAY PUT

Option D would see Rooney sit tight and remain at United, a club for whom he has netted 246 times, just three fewer than all-time record goalscorer Bobby Charlton.

Rooney has two years remaining on his contract after this campaign and has plenty of time to win back Jose Mourinho, whose current attacking options are hardly firing anyway.

PINK

Eastleigh rivals To

By Simon
Carter



A FORMER England under-21 colleague of Saints striker Nathan Redmond will be leading the line for Swindon in next Friday's FA Cup banana skin tie at Eastleigh.

Nathan Delfouneso spent six years as a professional at Aston Villa, making 31 Premier League appearances.

But only four of those were starts and he scored just two goals prior to being released in the summer of 2014.

Loaned out to a variety of clubs, his best season came at Blackpool in 2012/13 when he scored six times in 41 Championship appearances - 22 as a starter and 19 off the bench.

He returned to Bloomfield Road to join the Tangerines on a permanent deal after leaving Villa, but only managed three goals in 38 outings (17 of which were as a sub).

Moving onto Blackburn, he only scored once in 15 Championship outings last season.

Swindon, who he joined in the summer on a free at the same time Redmond was arriving at St Mary's in a £10m move from Norwich, is his latest port of call.

After failing to score in his opening 10 League 1 outings for the Wiltshire club, Delfouneso got off the mark in a 3-0 home win over Rochdale.

That ended Swindon's run of three games without a goal, but last weekend they returned to goal-shy ways in a miserable 2-0 home loss to Walsall.

That defeat left the Robins just above the third division drop zone with four wins in 15 matches.

It was also their fifth home loss in six games.

Under pressure boss Luke Williams only has three strikers in his first team squad to pick from, and one of those, Jon Obika, is currently injured and unlikely to be back in time to face Eastleigh in front of the BBC television cameras.

Luke Norris, a £150,000 summer signing from Gillingham, is the third forward in Town's squad. He is still waiting for his first goal for Swindon, having so far gone 16 games without netting ahead of this weekend's daunting trip to League 1 leaders Scunthorpe.

The good news for Swindon, with regards to their FA Cup tie at Eastleigh, is that the club's away form is better than their home record.

Away from the County Ground, they have only lost twice in seven games - winning one and drawing four.



Former Swindon striker Charlie Austin.

The club's sole win was a 2-0 success at Oldham, who are one of the four clubs below them in the table.

On target that day was Obika. But the former Tottenham trainee, Swindon's top scorer with 12 goals last term, has not played since early October due to a knee injury.

That has piled added pressure

on Delfouneso to come up with the goods, which he has yet to manage.

In recent weeks, Williams has deployed Delfouneso as the lone striker in a 4-2-3-1 system.

Part of the reason for altering his preferred 3-5-2 system was the fact Williams only had one fit centre half to choose from - skipper Nathan Thompson. As a result,

midfielder Connor Thomas has had to be included in a makeshift flat back four.

The change in tactics had started well, with Swindon drawing 0-0 at AFC Wimbledon and beating Rochdale.

The manager kept the same formation against Walsall, yet Swindon turned in a woeful performance that raised huge question

PINK

Down in the dumps



Crowded out: Nathan Delfouneso is outnumbered by Walsall opponents. Saints defender Jack Stephens, right, was on loan at Swindon two seasons ago.



in the Wembley final.

Back in 2009/10, Swindon were given a large helping hand towards a top six finish by the goals of a striker plucked from non league football.

Charlie Austin had never played a professional game in his life when he arrived at the club from Sydenhams Wessex League club Poole Town in September 2009.

Despite that, the current Saints star rewarded boss Danny Wilson for his faith in him by belting 19 goals in only 33 appearances – four of which were as a sub – and quickly forged a prolific partnership with Billy Paynter.

Paynter struck 26 times as Swindon finished fifth in the division, with only one striker in the division scoring more – 31-goal Saints ace Rickie Lambert.

Swindon were hugely reliant on Paynter and Austin, as only one other player scored more than three goals – seven-goal Danny Ward.

Drawn against Charlton in the play-off semi final, Austin and Ward gave Swindon a 2-1 first leg lead.

After losing the second leg by the same score at The Valley, Austin was among the successful scorers as Swindon booked their Wembley place with a 5-4 shoot-out win against the Addicks.

Austin's debut season in the pro game, though, was to end in bitter disappointment as Millwall triumphed 1-0 in the play off final.

Swindon, now under Mark Cooper's management, were back at Wembley just two seasons ago, in 2014/15.

Their team contained two Saints loanees - defenders Jack Stephens and Jordan Turnbull. Andy Williams was the talisman, hitting 21 goals, with Michael Smith adding 13 and Ben Gladwin and Obika eight each.

Town won 2-1 at Bramall Lane in the first leg of their play off semi final against Sheffield United.

Continued on page 26



Injured Swindon striker Jon Obika.

marks over Williams' future.

Indeed, Williams admitted in the aftermath of that result he expects further talks with chairman Lee Power.

All the signs, therefore, are that the Robins appear set for a season of struggle.

That is no doubt why the BBC are turning up next Friday. The television companies love a good

FA Cup upset – let's face it, who doesn't? – so this tie was always a likely option given Eastleigh's good form and Swindon's struggles.

In recent years, though, the Robins have looked a better option to leave League 1 through promotion rather than relegation.

Twice they have reached the play-offs, and twice they have lost

Best wins

Lewis Hamilton moved on to 50 Formula One career victories with his triumph at the US Grand Prix on Sunday.

Here are his five best wins.

2007 Canadian GP

In only his sixth grand prix, Hamilton, a fresh-faced 22-year-old, secured his first pole position. He then led masterfully from the front in a race which saw the safety car deployed on four occasions.

2007 Japanese GP

In treacherous conditions at the Fuji Speedway, Hamilton won from pole and set the fastest lap of the race to take charge of the championship in his maiden campaign.

2008 British GP

Hamilton turned in what probably remains as the best performance of his career. Fourth on the grid, Hamilton took the lead at a rain-sodden Silverstone on lap five. While his title rival Felipe Massa spun five times in the inclement conditions,



Lewis Hamilton.

Hamilton led from the front before lapping the entire field up to third and winning by nearly 70 seconds.

2015 United States GP

Nico Rosberg appeared set to deny Hamilton the championship as he led a dramatic wet-dry race in the closing stages. But with only seven laps left, Rosberg made an unforced error and ran off the road. Hamilton went on to win his third world title in the most dramatic of circumstances.

2016 Monaco GP

Following a deluge of rain, Hamilton took what would be the race-winning gamble to stay out on the extreme wet tyre as all those around him pitted for intermediates. It enabled him to take control at a track where overtaking is virtually impossible. He then turned in a masterful defensive display to claim the 44th win of his career.

Town woes

from page 25

They reached Wembley via a bizarre 5-5 second leg draw at the County Ground.

Amazingly, Swindon powered into a 3-0 lead inside the first 17 minutes and led 5-3 with just a few minutes left on the clock.

The club's promotion dream was shattered at Wembley again, though, as a Jermaine Beckford hat-trick helped Preston North End storm to a 4-0 success.

Williams left a few weeks later, joining Doncaster Rovers, while Gladwin moved to Queens Park Rangers.

Smith, meanwhile, fell out of favour and was loaned to Barnsley and Portsmouth last term.

After being released by the Robins last summer, Smith joined Portsmouth on a permanent deal.

Thankfully, Nicky Ajose was able to step up to the mark.

The former Leeds striker belted 25 goals – the second highest in League 1 behind Wigan's Will Griggs – but Swindon could still only finish 15th.

Off the field, Cooper –



Luke Williams.

currently boss of National League table toppers Forest Green Rovers – was dismissed at the end of October and ex-Swindon player Martin Ling appointed.

Ling lasted just a few weeks in charge before resigning due to health reasons, since revealed as depression.

He was succeeded by Williams, who had been Cooper's assistant.

The Wiltshire club received £800,000 in the summer when Ajose was signed by fellow League 1 club Charlton.

Half of that fee was immediately spent on Liverpool goalkeeper Lawrence Vigouroux, who had spent the 2015/16 season on loan to Swindon.

Swindon have three loanees from higher division clubs – QPR pair Darnell Furlong and Michael Doughty and Liverpool centre half Lloyd Jones.

All should be available to face Eastleigh as all are on season-long loans.

PINK

The worst defence

By Simon Carter



IT was a fairytale promotion under one future Saints boss – but it ended in a record breaking nightmare under another one.

How many people reading this can remember Swindon Town's sole season dining at the top table of English football?

Yes, the team who next Friday attempt to avoid an FA Cup embarrassment at Eastleigh were once rubbing shoulders with Saints and the rest of the footballing elite.

Not for long, though.

Only four clubs have ever spent just one season in the Premier League, and the Wiltshire club's campaign was easily the worst.

The Robins mustered just five wins from 42 matches in 1993/94, conceding 100 goals in the process. They ended with a goal difference of minus 53 and bagged just 30 points.

They were the first PL side to concede three figures, and remain the only side with that unenviable record.

Their 45 home goals conceded is another PL record.

But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

Here is a little history lesson for Eastleigh supporters regarding the club who could be on the end of a national television humiliation next Friday.

At the start of 1985/86, Swindon were in the fourth division. But in May 1990, they were celebrating promotion to the top flight – having beaten Sunderland 1-0 in the play-off final at Wembley due to a goal from ex-Saint Alan McLoughlin.

Those celebrations, though, were short-lived – the Robins never got to play in the First Division in 1990/91.

Instead, after admitting 36 breaches of Football League rules – 35 of which related to illegal payments – they were demoted to the third division and the lucky Black Cats promoted to the top flight in their place.

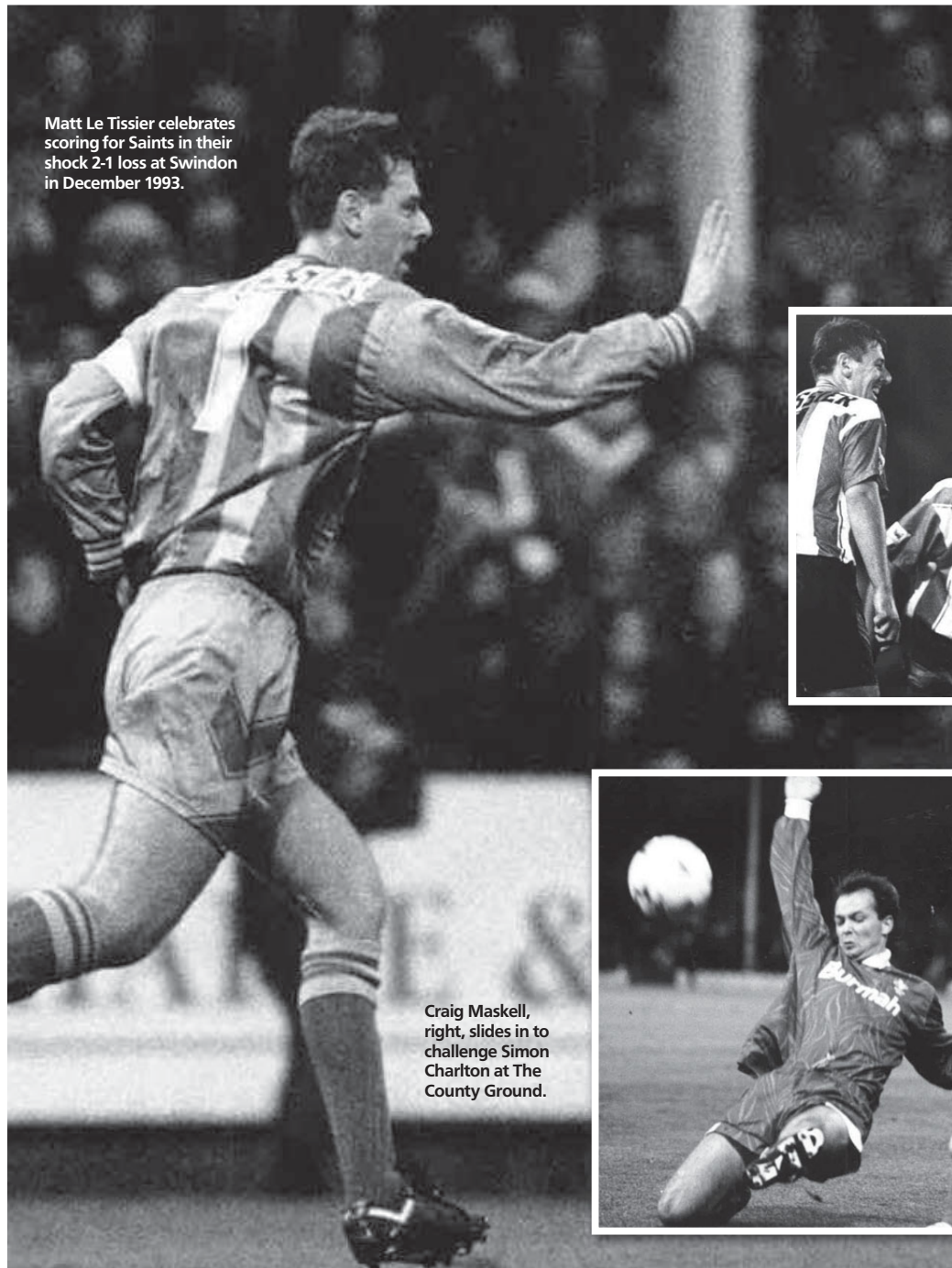
Re-instated to the second division on appeal, Swindon nevertheless had been denied their days in the sunshine.

And the Premier League was looking a long way off in early April 1991 with the Robins involved in a second tier relegation battle.

Seeking a new manager, they appointed Tottenham legend Glenn Hoddle as player-boss – his first managerial role.

Despite winning just two of his eight games – losing five – Swindon stayed up by two points.

Matt Le Tissier celebrates scoring for Saints in their shock 2-1 loss at Swindon in December 1993.



Craig Maskell, right, slides in to challenge Simon Charlton at The County Ground.

In a little over two years, they would be in the Premier League.

In 1992/93, Hoddle's second full season in charge, Swindon finished fifth, with Portsmouth third and Tranmere – now one of Eastleigh's non league rivals – in fourth place.

Swindon promptly beat Tranmere over two legs to set up a Wembley final against a Leicester

side who had beaten Pompey.

There followed one of the great play-off finals.

Leading 1-0 at the interval thanks to a Hoddle goal, Swindon led 3-0 after eight minutes of the second half following strikes from top scorer Craig Maskell (who started his career at The Dell and who was to return to Saints the following year) and

skipper Shaun Taylor.

Remarkably, Leicester hit back with three goals in 12 minutes.

There were only five minutes left when referee David Elleray awarded Swindon a penalty for a foul on sub Steve White and Paul Bodin kept his nerve to send the unfashionable Wiltshire club into the Premier League.

Within days of the Wembley

PINK

e in Premier history



Francis Benali helps Jeff Kenna celebrate his goal in Saints' 5-1 win against Swindon in 1993/94

that one success in 20 league games by the time Saints visited the County Ground just before Christmas.

Goals from Bodin and Keith Scott gave Gorman's Swindon a 2-1 victory - a result that did absolutely nothing to help under pressure manager Branfoot (who was sacked a few weeks later).

As the thrashings intensified - 6-2 at Everton (Tony Cottee hitting a hat-trick), 5-0 at Aston Villa and 7-1 at Newcastle), it was obvious long before the season's end that Swindon's time in the PL would be brief.

Entering the last game of the season having conceded 95 goals, the century was brought up as Leeds romped to a 5-0 win in Wiltshire.

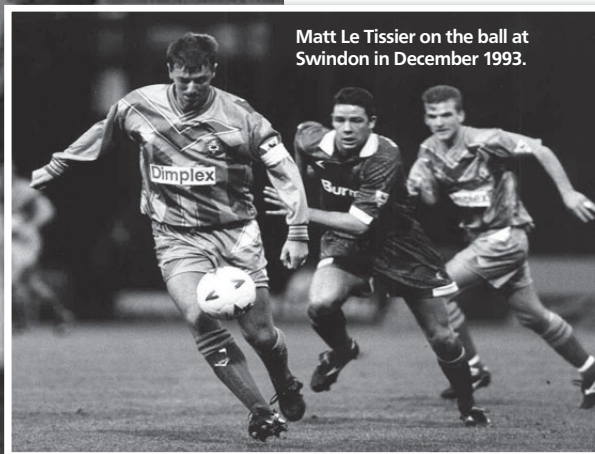
Unable to stop the slide, the Robins were relegated again the following season, 1994/95 - memories of a 2-2 draw at Anfield in 1993/94 a fading reminder of the time Swindon were one of the country's top clubs.

Now Swindon are struggling in the third division, and desperate for a good cup run to improve their finances.

Last season, the BBC cameras turned up at Salford City hoping to see them cause an FA Cup first round exit against visiting Notts County.

They duly saw one, Salford winning 2-0.

Matt Le Tissier on the ball at Swindon in December 1993.



win, however, Hoddle had quit to take over at Chelsea.

His assistant John Gorman, who was to spend a short period as Saints caretaker manager in 2007/08 alongside Jason Dodd, was instantly promoted to take Hoddle's place.

Swindon struggled from day one in the top flight, losing their opening four games.

The third of those losses was a 5-0 home thrashing by Liverpool and the fourth a 5-1 caning at The Dell a few days later.

Saints had also lost their first three games, to something had to give.

And, thankfully for the home fans, Ian Branfoot's side ended their losing run thanks to goals from Matt Le Tissier (2), Neil

Maddison, Iain Dowie and Jeff Kenna.

Swindon were 5-0 down by the time Maskell grabbed their consolation from the penalty spot.

Results failed to improve and Swindon didn't record their historic first win in the top flight until the 16th time of asking - a 1-0 home win over QPR.

Their dismal record read just

Quick goals

Chelsea winger Pedro scored the fastest goal of the Premier League season so far when he netted after 30 seconds against Manchester United.

But his speedy strike has some way to go to compare with the all-time list.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the fastest goals in Premier League history.

Ledley King

Bradford 3 Tottenham 3 (10 seconds)

A hopeful ball forward was met with a tame header back out and King lashed a deflected shot in from 20 yards at Valley Parade in 2003.

Alan Shearer

Newcastle 2 Man City 0 (10 seconds)

Shearer was quick off the mark when he charged down keeper Carlo Nash's attempted clearance in 2002 and poked home the loose ball.

Mark Viduka

Charlton 1 Leeds 2 (11 seconds)



Pedro

Leeds' Australian frontman was never renowned for his pace but he was too quick for Charlton. Alan Smith rose to flick on a long ball from Ian Harte and Viduka did the rest.

Dwight Yorke
Coventry 0 Aston Villa 3 (13 seconds)

Straight from kick-off Mark Draper sent Ian Taylor clear down the right and he put in a perfect cross which Yorke steered home in 1995.

Chris Sutton

Everton 1 Blackburn 2 (13 seconds)

Sutton scored as Rovers took another stride towards the 1994/95 title.

Asmir Begovic

Stoke 1 Saints 1 (13 seconds)

Artur Boruc could only watch the Stoke keeper's punt bounce over him for the longest goal in history, measured at 91.9 metres.

PINK

Book review

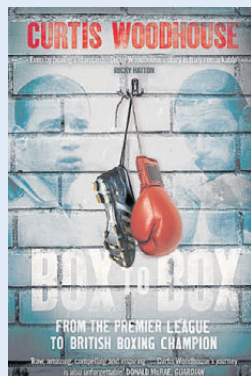
Box To Box

From The Premier League to British Boxing Champion
By Curtis Woodhouse

Sportsbookofthemoth.com price: £12.91, saving £4.08 on rrp

It doesn't take long to get an early inkling of Curtis Woodhouse's motivation and ambition. Sat in a bar with his pub landlord father, he reveals that, despite the ridiculous amount of money he's earning as a professional footballer, much of which has been wasted on booze, he has had enough and wants to become a professional boxer instead.

Woodhouse clearly idolised his old man, so when he's told, in no uncertain terms, that he



should either become a pro boxer or never mention the subject again, it's evident that Woodhouse is motivated again. Boxing, which he describes as his 'first love' it is.

For a variety of reasons, most sports fans never get close to making it in one professional sport, yet Woodhouse reached the top in two. That he would go from playing football in England's top flight (winning four England under-21 caps en route) to British light-welterweight boxing champion within 28 professional fights is a remarkable feat, one for which Woodhouse has never received the recognition he deserved.

Was Woodhouse a better boxer than he was a footballer?

Box To Box doesn't answer that supposition definitively, though it does show what anyone with drive and ambition can achieve if they work hard enough.

Ex-Saint Pochettino hits out at 'fake' culture



Mauricio Pochettino.

Mauricio Pochettino has hit out at the Premier League's "fake" managerial niceties - revealing he never called Claudio Ranieri to congratulate the Italian on Leicester's improbable title drive.

Leicester edged out Spurs to claim their maiden top-flight crown last season, with Ranieri landing an elusive first career league triumph.

Ex-Saints boss Pochettino insisted he had not snubbed Ranieri - instead refusing to indulge English traditions he feels would compromise his managerial integrity.

tegrity.

Spurs' Argentinian boss forced himself to watch Leicester's title celebrations on TV the night Ranieri's men sealed their triumph - then put both himself and his frustrations to bed.

"No, I never phoned him," said Pochettino, of how he chose to congratulate rival boss Ranieri last year.

"I relayed my message in the press conference after the Chelsea game. My first sentence was to congratulate them and to send a message through the TV.

"I am not fake - I was not happy.

"It is like when we are fighting on the bench with the other bench and the culture here is to share a glass of wine in the manager's room.

"Why? In front of the TV, 'Look at me, I am very brave, fighting with everyone', and then inside like, 'I am very sorry for my behaviour, all the best, cheers, let us have a glass of wine'.

"Very fake. I am not fake. I congratulate him and all the fans of Leicester and the coaching staff and players, but I wasn't happy."

Athletic top after last-gasp winner

CHAMBERLAYNE Athletic are three points clear at the top of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

But they left it late before winning 1-0 at Crusaders - Ryan Stephenson grabbing the only goal in the 91st minute.

Itchen Saints beat AFC West End 3-0 with all the goals - from Aidan Johnson, Mike Saunders and Jamie Wilson - coming in the second half.

Boyatt Wood remain top of the Senior Division following a 4-0 home win over Yacht Tavern. On target were Adam Shepherd (2), Warren Applegate and Rich Smith.

Ben Dawkins hit a hat-trick as second placed RS Nomansland beat CDA 4-3. Akbar Singh also scored with Sam Barton, Sam Knapp and Martin Wolf replying.

AFC Soton are the new leaders in Junior Division 1 after a 2-1 home win over Bitterne Ducks.

Ceasor Olla and Taylor Young scored, with Michael Thomas replying.

AFC Soton lead on goal difference from Durley, who crashed 2-0 at home to Bishops - Marc Beston and Will Harley on target.

AFC Carpeting claimed their first points with a 3-0 home win over AFC Southbrook, thanks to goals from Kyle Walsh (2) and Kyle Browner.

Junior Division 2 table-toppers Curbridge saw their 100 per cent record ended with a 3-1 loss at AFC Portswood.

James Christopher, Tom Sutton and Brandon Perry netted, with James Pitre replying.

Marchwood Rangers scored through Luke Brider, Toby Holdsworth and Jay Petty in a 3-1 win against AFC



Eastleigh keeper Ryan Clarke makes a fingertip save at Barrow. Report on pages 4/5.

Dorchester, Joseph Clist replying.

Mo Eltarabily (2) and Nathan Roles netted as Fryern beat Test Valley Spartans 3-0.

AFC Spitfires made it five wins out of five in Junior Division 3 as they beat Romsey Comrades 3-0 with goals from Neil Philpotts,

Matt Coulthard and Dawid Wrezel.

Portside netted through Daniel Runnalls (2) and Nathan Turner in a 3-3 home draw with Forest Home, who scored through Freddy Atterbury, Michael Switzer and Josh Bond.

Braiden Hamilton (2), Clayd

Roach and Haydn Lamb netted as Portswood won 4-3 at Royale Marine, who replied through Matt Shrimpton, Will Bletso and Bertie Shelley.

Connor Brown scored in the first half as AFC Mayflower beat Banister Park in the sole Junior Division 5 game played.

PINK

Three race meetings you just can't miss ...

Three things you can't miss about the forthcoming racing week ...

CUP KINGS

Fondly known as the 'race that stops a nation', the Emirates Melbourne Cup really is worth getting up for at crazy o'clock on Tuesday morning. Big Orange, fifth last year, chiefly carries Brit-

ish hopes for winning the thing for a first time.

HALDON HEROES

A lovely treat for jumps fans with the yearly staging of the Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter on Tuesday. Previous winners of the Grade Two include Flagship Uberalles, Best Mate and Cue

Card so its importance cannot be downplayed. Garde La Victoire, trained by Philip Hobbs, is in the hunt this year - as is the exciting Fox Norton.

ROYAL APPROVAL

Down Royal stages a smashing Saturday card, on which we are likely to see the race of the

National Hunt season so far.

The JNwine.com Champion Chase has twice succumbed to Kauto Star, with last year's winner Don Cossack needing little introduction. Silviniaco Conti, Monksland, Gilgamba, Don Poli and Valseur Lido are all on course for the Grade One in a race that rarely disappoints.

Hero Blaxall bags a double hat-trick

AARON Blaxall was the stand-out performer in the first round of the City of Southampton Sunday League's Charlie Godden Trophy.

He blasted a double hat-trick as Portswood United Reserves romped to an 8-0 victory over Southampton United.

Matt White and Sam Bessant also scored.

Wayne Atkin and Nathan Gray both struck trebles as Barway hammered Whiteheart 11-2 - seven of the goals coming in the second period.

Ricky Hart, Josh Knight, Dave Randell, Nick Barrow (penalty) and an own goal completed the rout.

AFC Hedge End Town struck a late winner to progress 4-3 at Burridge AFC.

On target were Chris Astridge (2), Callum Parker and Adam Martin, with Dave Middleton, Scott Williams and Kieran Boyd replying.

Testwood Tornados won 3-0 at Chamberlayne Athletic 'A' with Lee Wilkinson (2) and Josh Osman scoring.

Sholing Monks won 4-3 on penalties at Cricks following a 1-1 draw.

Mike Phillips had scored for Cricks, with Ben Maher slotting home the reply.

Hamwic Rovers came from 1-2 down at half-time to beat RS Nomansland Reserves 4-2 with goals from Dan Stockley (2), Pawel Burdzy and an own goal. Josh Tunstall and Aidan Foyle had put RS ahead.

Mitch Down (2), Ben Jacobs and an own goal made up OT's and Romsey's 4-2 win at Hedge End City, who replied through Jacob Ainslie and Dan Hillyer.

Aiden Reidy, James Shirley and Sam Martin scored as Mayfield Rovers beat Park Gate Panthers 3-0.

Liam Golding scored the only goal in the first half as AFC For-



Aaron Blaxall scored a Charlie Godden Trophy double hat-trick

estside beat Nemesis, while AFC Itchen powered to a 7-3 win at Abbotswood thanks to James Brewer (3), Nick England (2) and Dan Collinson (2).

Joey Simpson, Joe Jennings and Ben Paddock replied for Abbotswood, who had been level at 2-2 at half-time.

Testlands Reserves triumphed 4-2 on spot kicks at Athletic Romsey following a 1-1 draw.

Will Pascal fired Romsey into a

half-time lead, but Charlie Dawson levelled.

Dawson, Brendan Beazley, Dean Laxton and Robert New netted for Testlands in the shoot-out, with Pascal and Jamie Parker replying.

Riverside Rangers beat AFC Itchen Reserves 5-1 with goals from Lee Gallop (2), Nick Sutherland, Peter Kerr and Connor McCall. Tom Hills replied.

Sporting Compass won 5-4 on

penalties at Southern Sports after a 2-2 draw.

Craig Harvey and Jake Harvey scored for Sports, with Sam Driscoll and Michael Halton replying - all four goals coming in the first 45 minutes.

Driscoll, Halton, Nick Pompa, James Parsons and Toby Wilkes scored for Compass in the shoot-out. Hamish Morjaria, Dan Hewes, Jake Harvey and Callum Summers replied.

City of Southampton Sunday League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chamberlayne	5	4	1	0	17	4	13
Itchen Saints	5	3	1	1	14	9	10
A.F.C. West End	5	3	0	2	11	10	9
Crusaders	4	2	0	2	15	6	6
K.R.L.	4	1	1	2	11	8	4
Landguard	4	0	1	3	6	21	1
Bush Hill	3	0	0	3	2	18	0

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boyatt Wood	6	4	1	1	19	11	13
Nomansland	6	4	0	2	14	12	12
Testlands	3	2	1	0	13	4	7
Cricketers Arms	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
A.F.C. Riverside	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Yacht Tavern	6	0	2	4	7	18	2
C.D.A.	5	0	0	5	6	18	0

Junior 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Soton	5	4	0	1	30	7	12
Durley	5	4	0	1	19	2	12
Eastpoint	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Bitterne Ducks	5	2	1	2	18	10	7
Bishops	4	2	0	2	5	12	6
Southbrook	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
King George	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Carpeting	4	1	0	3	3	36	3
Bishopstoke	5	0	1	4	7	12	1

Junior 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curbridge	5	4	0	1	18	10	12
Fawley R.B.L	3	3	0	0	16	3	9
Hunters Inn	4	3	0	1	13	9	9
Portswood	4	3	0	1	12	8	9
Marchwood	6	3	0	3	17	24	9
Lyndhurst Jun	3	2	0	1	9	5	6
Test Valley	5	2	0	3	9	15	6
Fryern	6	1	0	5	11	17	3
Dorchester	6	0	0	6	12	26	0

Junior 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Spitfire	5	5	0	0	17	3	15
Portswood	4	4	0	0	17	11	12
Bridge Manor	4	3	0	1	13	7	9
Winsor U.S.C.	2	1	1	0	9	1	4
Mottisfont	4	1	0	3	11	14	3
Forest Home	5	0	2	3	9	17	2
Portside	4	0	1	3	6	18	1
Royale Marine	2	0	0	2	4	7	0
Romsey Com	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Junior 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chamberlayne	5	5	0	0	25	6	15
Portswood Res	4	4	0	0	20	3	12
Mayfield	6	2	2	2	25	22	8
Barway	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Sholing Monks	6	2	0	4	12	18	6
Soton United	5	2	0	3	9	21	6
Whitehart	4	1	1	2	12	15	4
Hedge End	5	1	0	4	6	23	3
Nomansland	5	0	1	4	12	19	1

Junior 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
O.T's & Romsey	5	5	0	0	22	7	15
Hedge End	5	3	1	1	25	14	10
Testwood	4	3	0	1	16	9	9
Athletico Rom	4	2	2	0	10	6	8
Sp Compass	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Bannister Park	5	2	0	3	9	8	6
A.F.C. Itchen	6	1	0	5	14	20	3
Mayflower	4	1	0	3	6	16	3
Cricks A.F.C.	4	1	0	3	8	19	3
Burridge A.F.C.	4	0	0	4	4	20	0

Junior 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Testlands Res	6	6	0	0	25	3	18
Forestside	5	4	0	1	26	4	12
Hamwic	5	4	0	1	22	16	12
Chamberlayne	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Park Gate	5	2	1	2	9	21	7
Nemesis	5	2	0	3	17	17	6
Southern Sp	4	1	0	3	10	10	3
Abbotswood	4	1	0	3	5	18	3
Riverside	5	0	1	4	5	13	1
Itchen Reserves	6	0	0	6	11	38	0

PINK

LOCAL CRICKET

Double first for Zafar

Zafar Ansari this week made his Test debut for England against Bangladesh.

Here are five things you might not know about the 24-year-old.

1. The Ansaris

Ansari's father hails from Lahore, Pakistan, and moved to Britain as a teenager due to his father's commitment to the British Army. Khizar Ansari was awarded an OBE in 2002 for his work in race and ethnic relations.

2. Civil rights

Ansari achieved a double first in politics and sociology at Cambridge University while his Masters subject on civil rights in the US has seen him recently complete a 40,000-word dissertation, leaving him free to



Zafar Ansari.

concentrate on the day job for a while.

3. First wicket

Ansari marked his first-class bow for Cambridge MCCU against Essex in 2011 by bowling his future England skipper Alastair Cook. "I bowled 30-odd overs without taking a wicket and then he tried to reverse sweep me and dragged it on."

4. Second wicket

Ansari had to wait until his third first-class match before taking his next wicket, but it was another big fish as future Surrey team-mate Kevin Pietersen was snared bat-pad.

5. Heroes

His cricketing idols are two men who were also left-hand dominant - West Indian legend Garry Sobers and Pakistani all-rounder Wasim Akram.



Prize winners (from left): Dick Batchelor (Clubman of the Year), Peter Green (B team batting), Terry Morton, Mike Swain and Andre Manders (B team bowling).

First recipient of memorial trophy

By Mike Vimpany



MIKE Swain has become the first recipient of the Geoff Owen Memorial Trophy, awarded to the Hampshire Seniors' Cricketer of the Year.

He scored in excess of 1,500 runs playing for the England 70's 'Test' side and Hampshire Over-60s and 70s this season.

It was fitting that Swain should become the inaugural winner because he and Owen, who died from cancer just before the start of the season, were long standing team-mates in the Hampshire 60s side and played against each other on many occasions in the old Southern League. They both played for England at 70s level.

A former Gosport Borough left-hander, Swain helped Hampshire's Golden Oldies win the National Seventies Cup, scoring 989 runs in competitive matches, including five centuries and six scores of 50 or more.

He played three times for England, helping them win the 'Ashes' by scoring 223 runs. Swain also made 345 runs for Hampshire Over-60s this summer.

● Hampshire's vintage over-70s cricketers were the toast at the



From left - Terry Morton, Kevin Poulter and Mike Swain.

Seniors' annual presentation dinner at the Hampworth Golf Club.

They won the National Over-70s championship for the first time, with skipper Jan Bridle handing out the accolades and the individual trophies.

Both the 50s and 60s A teams qualified for the knockout stages of their respective national com-

petitions, while the B side reached the 50s final, only to lose to Oxfordshire, despite half-centuries by Steve Tongs and Phil Colmer.

● Hook & Newnham Basics left-earmer Kevin Poulter celebrated being named top Hampshire Over-50s bowler - a year after a successful battle against cancer. He took 13 wickets, including a

best 5-24 return against Somerset, and also captured 25 Southern Premier League Division 1 victims for Hook, who narrowly missed out on promotion.

● Former Waterlooville captain Terry Morton won the Hampshire 60s batting prize after scoring 463 runs, including one century and three scores of fifty or more.

SAINTS FIXTURES 2016/17



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
August															
Sat 13 Watford (h)	D 1-1	Forster	Cedric+	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	Davis	=W-Prowse	*Long	Tadic	Redmond 1	+Pied	=Hojbjerg	*Austin
Fri 19 Man Utd (a)	L 1-2	Forster	Cedric	Targett	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu*	Hojbjerg	Davis=	Austin	Long+	Redmond	+Rodriguez	=Austin	*Clasie
Sat 27 Sunderland (h)	D1-1	Forster	Cedric	Targett	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Hojbjerg*	Davis	Austin=	Tadic+	Redmond	+Long	=Rodriguez	*W-Prowse
September															
Sat 10 Arsenal (a)	L 1-2	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie*	Tadic1=	Rodriguez+	Redmond	+Long	=J W-Prowse	*Hojbjerg
Thurs 15 Sp Prague (Eur Lge) (h)	W 3-0	Forster	Martina	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu=	W-Prowse	Hojbjerg	Tadic*	Austin 2+	Long	+Rodriguez1	=Davis	*Redmond
Sun 18 Swansea (h)	W 1-0	Forster	Cedric	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie*	Tadic=	Long+	Redmond	+Hojbjerg	=Martina	*Austin1
Wed 21 C Palace (Lge Cup, H)	W 2-0	McCarthy	Martina	Targett	Yoshida	Fonte	W-Prowse	Reed	Clasie	Hesketh1*	Austin1+	Long=	+Redmond	=Tadic	*Hojbjerg
Sun 25 West Ham (a)	W 3-0	Forster	Soares+	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Hojbjerg	Tadic1*	Austin1=	Redmond	+Martina	=Long	*W-Prowse1
Thurs 29 Hapoel (Europa Lge) (a)	D 0-0	Forster	Martina	Targett	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	W-Prowse	Clasie	Hesketh+	Long	Redmond=	+Tadic	=Hojbjerg	
October															
Sun 2 Leicester (a)	D 0-0	Forster	Soares+	Bertrand	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Hojbjerg	Tadic*	Austin=	Redmond	+Martina	=W-Prowse	*Long
Sun 16 Burnley (h)	W 3-1	Forster	Martina	Targett+	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie	Tadic	Austin=	Redmond*	+McQueen	=Rodriguez	*W-Pr
Thurs 20 Inter (Europa Lge, a)	L 0-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Yoshida	Romeu	W-Pr	Hojbjerg	Tadic*	Long+	Rodriguez=	+Austin	=Davis	*Boufal
Sun 23 Man City (a)	D 1-1	Forster	Martina	McQueen	Van Dijk	Fonte	Romeu	Davis	Clasie+	Tadic*	Austin=	Redmond	+Hojbjerg	=W-Prowse	*Boufal
Wed 26 Sunderland (Lge Cup, h)	W 1-0	McCarthy	Stephens	McQueen	Yoshida	Fonte	Reed +	W-Prowse	Boufal	Isgrove=	Hojbjerg	Rodriguez*	+Clasie	=Redmond	*Olomola
Sun 30 Chelsea (4pm)	(h)														
November															
Thurs 3 Inter Milan (Europa Lge)	(h)														
Sat 6 Hull	(a)														
Sat 19 Liverpool	(h)														
Thurs 24 Sp Prague (Europa Lge)	(a)														
Sat 27 Everton (4.30pm)	(h)														
December															
Sat 3 Crystal Palace	(a)														
Thurs 8 Hapoel (Europa Lge)	(h)														
Sun 11 Middlesbrough	(h)														
Wed 14 Stoke	(a)														
Sat 17 Bournemouth	(a)														
Mon 26 Tottenham	(h)														
Sat 31 West Brom	(h)														
January															
Mon 2 Everton	(a)														
Sat 14 Burnley	(a)														
Sat 21 Leicester	(h)														
Tues 31 Swansea	(a)														
February															
Sat 4 West Ham	(h)														
Sat 11 Sunderland	(a)														
Sat 25 Arsenal	(h)														

CHERRIES FIXTURES 2016/17

AUGUST	29 Middlesbrough	(A)	JANUARY	4 Manchester United	(A)
13 Man United (H)	L 1-3			11 West Ham United	(H)
20 West Ham United (A)	L 0-1	NOVEMBER		18 Swansea City	(H)
27 Crystal Palace (A)	D1-1				
5 Sunderland	(H)		2 Arsenal	(H)	
19 Stoke City	(A)		14 Hull City	(A)	
26 Arsenal	(A)		21 Watford	(H)	
31 Crystal Palace	(H)				
APRIL					
1 Southampton	(A)				
5 Liverpool	(A)				
8 Chelsea	(H)				
15 Tottenham	(A)				
22 Middlesbrough	(H)				
29 Sunderland	(A)				
MAY					
6 Stoke City	(H)				
13 Burnley	(H)				

PORTSMOUTH FIXTURES 2016/17

AUGUST	1 Doncaster (H)	L 1-2	31 Yeovil	(A)	4 Crewe	(H)
6 Carlisle (H)	D 1-1				11 Colchester	(A)
9 Coventry (League Cup, A)	L 2-3	4 Reading U23 (H, EFL Trophy)	D 2-2		14 Grimsby	(H)
13 Crewe (A)	D 0-0	8 Leyton Orient (A)	W1-0	2 Luton	18 Stevenage	(A)
16 Morecambe (A)	L 0-2	15 Plymouth (A)	D 2-2	7 Doncaster	25 Newport County	(H)
20 Colchester (H)	W 2-0	22 Notts County (H)	L 1-2	14 Leyton Orient		
27 Exeter (A)	W 1-0	29 Cambridge Utd	(A)	21 Crawley Town	APRIL	
30 Yeovil (EFL Tr)	L 3-4			28 Exeter	1 Hartlepool	(A)
NOVEMBER					8 Yeovil	(H)
12 Mansfield	(H)				14 Plymouth	(H)
19 Cheltenham	(A)			4 Wycombe	17 Notts County	(A)
22 Luton	(A)			11 Accrington Stanley	22 Cambridge Utd	(H)
26 Stevenage	(A)			14 Blackpool	29 Mansfield	(A)
DECEMBER				18 Barnet	MAY	
10 Grimsby	(A)			25 Carlisle	6 Cheltenham	(H)
17 Hartlepool	(H)			28 Morecambe		
26 Newport County	(A)					
OCTOBER						

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Northern Powerhouse

The Rugby Football League has identified 15 potential venues for the 2021 World Cup, based largely on the Government's commitment to the Northern Powerhouse.

Organisers say 80 per cent of the matches will be held in the game's northern heartland, essentially to minimise travel times, reduce environmental impact and concentrate the focus and excitement, as well as payback for the Government's pledge of £25million in funding.

Established club venues like Huddersfield and Warrington will be supplemented by showpiece fixtures in the game's expansion markets of London, the midlands and the north-east.

The total of 31 matches will be played across 12 venues selected from the following short-list:

1. Wembley

Capacity 90,000. Has hosted the Challenge Cup final since 1929 and staged the 1992 and 1995 World Cup finals.

2. Old Trafford

Capacity 75,700. The venue for the Super League Grand Final since 1998 after previously hosting the Premiership final, and staged both the 2000 and 2013 World Cup finals.

3. London Stadium

Capacity 60,045. Organisers were sufficiently encouraged by the attendance of 44,393 for the second Test between England and New Zealand at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park last November to take the Four Nations clash with Australia there on November 13.

4. Etihad Stadium

Capacity 60,000. Rugby league used to use Manchester City's old Maine Road ground for Championship finals and the Etihad, built to stage the 2002 Commonwealth Games, drew bumper crowds for Super League's Magic Weekend in 2013 and 2014.

5. St James' Park

Capacity 52,405. Newcastle United's ground will host the Magic Weekend for a third successive year in 2017 after attracting a record aggregate crowd of 68,276 in 2016.

6. Anfield

Capacity 54,000. Liverpool's iconic home was the venue for Wigan's World Club Challenge against Penrith in 1991 and also hosted Super League in 1997. It will stage the final of the Four Nations Series on November 20. *Cont on facing page*

PINK

LOCAL CRICKET

Southampton



Trants, runners up in the 2016 SECL Presidents Cup.

Southampton CC, winners of the 2016 SECL Division One.



West End Saints CC, the Division Two winners.



Old Netley & Highfield, the 2016 Southampton



Trants CC, the Division Three winners.



Southampton CC, winners of the Presidents Cup.

Southampton CC celebrated their Southampton Evening League and President's Cup double at The Ageas Bowl.

They won nine of their ten games in division one to finish 55 points clear of nearest rivals Hedge End Hawks and beat Trants CC in the final of the President's Cup.

They were presented with both

trophies by Jake Goodwin after an entertaining Q & A from the Hampshire starlet.

Goodwin, who made his T20 debut last season and has recently signed a scholarship deal, revealed that he is off to South Africa in the new year to work alongside former Hampshire coach Dale Benkenstein.

Goodwin also presented tro-

phies and medals to division two winners West End Saints CC and division three champions Trants CC as well as Harold Diaper Rose Bowl Trophy winners Nat's CC.

Indoor League division one winners Hedge End Hawks CC were not represented but Old Netley & Highfield CC were awarded the division two trophy.

Also among the guests were

Hampshire Cricket secretary Tim Tremlett, the league's secretary, and Simon Jones of the Hampshire Cricket Board.

If you would like to join the 24 teams that contested this year's competition, contact SECL secretary Ian Meyer on ian3secl@btinternet.com.

● To order pictures, email info@DaveVokesPhotography.co.uk.

PINK LOCAL CRICKET

do the double



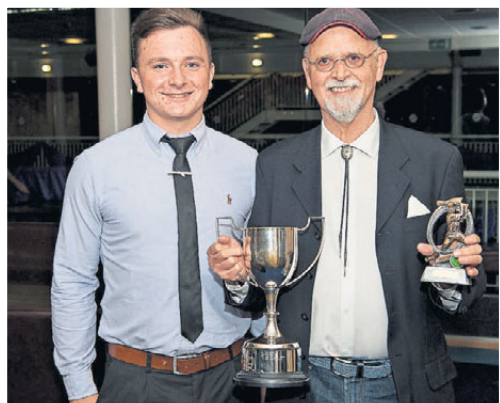
Old Netley and Highfield CC, the indoor league Division Two winners.



Tom Smith, of Old Highfield and Netley, with Jake Goodwin.



Matt Maunder of Southampton CC receives the Presidents Cup.



Barry Stovell of West End Saints CC receiving the SECL Division 2 Trophy from Jake Goodwin.



NATS (National Air Traffic Service), winners of the 2016 Harold Diaper Cup.



Stuart Owen, of NATS, receives the Harold Diaper Cup.



Trants CC receive the SECL Division 3 Trophy from Jake Goodwin.



Matt Maunder of Southampton CC receives the SECL Division 1 trophy from Jake Goodwin.

Northern Powerhouse

from facing page

7. Bramall Lane

Capacity 32,600. Sheffield United have hosted rugby league neighbours Sheffield Eagles regularly over the last 20 years, including their Challenge Cup fourth-round tie against Hull in 2015.

8. Ricoh Arena

Capacity 32,609. Coventry's stadium hosted rugby league for the first time in May when Coventry Bears moved a League 1 fixture with Keighley to Wasps' home and there will be a Four Nations double-header there on November 5.

9. KCOM Stadium

Capacity 25,586. Hull FC's home has been a popular venue for rugby league internationals over the years and drew a full house for the first Test against New Zealand 12 months ago.

10. DW Stadium

Capacity 25,138. Wigan's home since 1999, the stadium has hosted six Great Britain Tests and a World Cup quarter-final in 2013.

11. John Smith's Stadium

Capacity 24,500. Huddersfield, the birthplace of rugby league, has been a regular venue for international rugby league since the stadium was opened in 1994.

12. Langtree Park

Capacity 18,000. Australia played at St Helens' modern home in the 2013 World Cup and Hollywood actor Russell Crowe was among a capacity crowd for the World Club Challenge featuring his South Sydney club in 2015.

13. Headingley

Capacity 20,500. Leeds' famous venue has been a regular venue for international rugby league since 1908.

14. Halliwell Jones Stadium

Capacity 15,000. Warrington's home since 2003 has been a regular venue for Challenge Cup semi-finals and hosted World Cup ties in 2013.

15. Keepmoat

Capacity 15,000, essentially a football ground, Doncaster has been used as a venue for the Challenge Cup semi-finals, most recently in July, and hosted a Four Nations clash in 2009.

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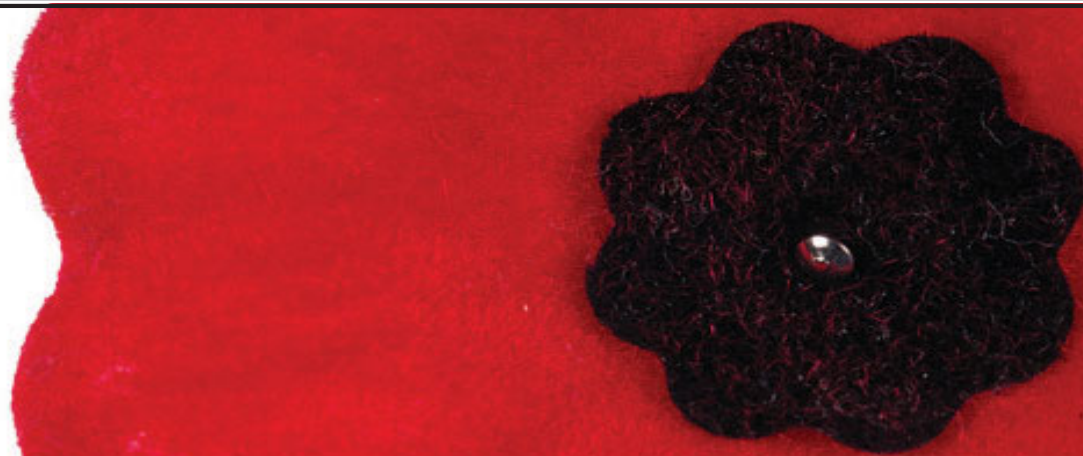
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PINK

RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

Crystal P	L	Liverpool	L
HT 1-0			
Man Utd	0	Burnley	0
HT 0-0			
Middlesbro	2	AFC Bournemouth	0
Ramirez 39			
Downing 56			
HT 1-0			
Sunderland	1	Arsenal	4
Defoe 65 pen			
HT 0-1			
Tottenham Hotspur	1	Leicester	1
Janssen 44 pen			
HT 1-0			
Watford	1	Hull	0
Dawson 82 og			
HT 0-0			
W.B.A.	0	Man City	4
HT 0-2			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man City	10	3	2	0	11	4	23	Arsenal	10	3	1	1	11	7	23
Liverpool	9	3	1	0	11	3	20	Tottenham	10	3	2	0	6	2	20
Chelsea	9	4	0	1	13	3	19	Everton	9	2	2	0	6	3	12
Watford	9	2	2	0	6	3	12	Man Utd	10	2	2	1	6	4	12
SAINTS	9	2	2	0	6	3	12	Bournemouth	10	3	1	1	9	4	12
Bournemouth	10	3	1	1	9	4	12	Leicester	10	3	2	0	8	2	12
Leicester	10	3	2	0	8	2	12	Crystal P	9	1	1	2	5	4	11
Crystal P	9	1	1	2	5	4	11	Burnley	10	3	1	2	7	4	11
Burnley	10	3	1	2	7	4	11	Middlesbro	10	1	1	3	5	6	11
Middlesbro	10	1	1	3	5	6	11	West Ham	10	1	2	2	6	9	10
West Ham	10	1	2	2	6	9	10	Stoke	9	1	1	2	4	8	10
Stoke	9	1	1	2	4	8	10	Hull	10	1	0	4	3	7	10
Hull	10	1	0	4	3	7	10	Swansea	9	0	2	3	4	9	10
Swansea	9	0	2	3	4	9	10	Sunderland	10	0	1	4	5	13	0
Sunderland	10	0	1	4	5	13	0								

SkyBet Championship

Barnsley	2	Bristol C	2
Watkins 21			
Hamill 90			
HT 1-0			
Blackburn	L	Wolves	0
HT 1-0			
Brighton	5	Norwich	0
Murray 6,8,7,73			
Dunk 64, Knockaert 84			
HT 1-0			
Cardiff	0	Wigan	1
HT 0-0			
Derby City	2	Sheff Wed	0
Pearce 67			
HT 1-0			
Fulham	5	Huddersfld	0
Martin 8,6,3 pen			
Kalasz 34			
Piazon 42			
McDonald 66			
HT 3-0			
Ipswich	2	Rotherham	2
Seares 3			
McGoldrick 90			
HT 1-1			
Leeds Utd	2	Burton Albion	0
Wood 83 pen			
Doukara 90			
HT 0-0			
Preston	1	Newcastle	2
Seaford 90			
HT 0-0			
Reading	2	Nottm For	0
McCleary 10			
Gunter 62			
HT 1-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Newcastle	15	6	1	0	2	17	9	Brighton	15	6	1	1	17	4	31
Brighton	15	6	1	1	17	4	31	Huddersfld	15	6	0	1	10	12	28
Huddersfld	15	6	0	1	10	12	28	Norwich	15	5	1	1	12	6	27
Norwich	15	5	1	1	12	6	27	Reading	15	4	3	1	10	6	3
Reading	15	4	3	1	10	6	3	Bristol C	15	5	1	1	10	5	24
Bristol C	15	5	1	1	10	5	24	Sheff Wed	15	4	2	1	13	4	22
Sheff Wed	15	4	2	1	13	4	22	Birmingham	14	4	2	1	13	8	23
Birmingham	14	4	2	1	13	8	23	Leeds Utd	15	4	2	2	10	7	22
Leeds Utd	15	4	2	2	10	7	22	Brentford	15	4	2	1	13	4	22
Brentford	15	4	2	1	13	4	22	Fulham	15	2	3	3	12	12	9
Fulham	15	2	3	3	12	12	9	Barnsley	15	3	2	3	15	13	3
Barnsley	15	3	2	3	15	13	3	Preston	15	4	0	4	12	8	1
Preston	15	4	0	4	12	8	1	O.P.R.	15	2	3	3	7	13	9
O.P.R.	15	2	3	3	7	13	9	Ipswich	15	3	4	1	10	6	1
Ipswich	15	3	4	1	10	6	1	Burton Albion	15	4	1	2	10	5	0
Burton Albion	15	4	1	2	10	5	0	Derby City	15	3	3	4	9	1	1
Derby City	15	3	3	4	9	1	1	Wolves	14	2	2	3	7	9	0
Wolves	14	2	2	3	7	9	0	Nottm For	15	4	1	2	17	13	1
Nottm For	15	4	1	2	17	13	1	Cardiff	15	2	3	0	5	11	1
Cardiff	15	2	3	0	5	11	1	Wigan	15	2	3	0	5	11	1
Wigan	15	2	3	0	5	11	1	Blackburn	14	2	2	3	9	11	1
Blackburn	14	2	2	3	9	11	1	Rotherham	15	1	3	3	8	10	0
Rotherham	15	1	3	3	8	10	0								

SkyBet League One

AFC Wimbledon	2	Bradford	3
Elliott 18			
Taylor 68 pen			
HT 1-1			
Bolton	3	Port Vale	0
Clough 7			
Vela 11			
Willson 16			
HT 3-0			
Bristol R	1	Peterboro	2
Taylor 57 pen			
HT 0-0			

Charlton	1	Chesterfld	0
Novak 86			
HT 0-0			
Fleetwood Town	2	Gillingham	0
Ball 19			
Hanser 82			
HT 1-0			
Northampton	3	Bury	2
Richards 36,64 pen			
Taylor 71			
HT 1-0			
Oxford Utd	1	Millwall	2
Sarcombe 31			
HT 1-0			
Rochdale	1	Oldham	0
Lund 40			
HT 1-0			
Scunthorpe	4	Swindon	0
Madden 15,4			
Hulmes 21, van Veen 43			
HT 0-0			
Sheff Utd	2	M K Dons	1
Scoullay 5, Sharp 63			
HT 1-0			
Southend	1	Shrewsbury	1
McLaughlin 39			
HT 1-1			
Walsall	1	Coventry	1
Ozturk 76			
HT 0-1			

	HOME						AWAY									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Scunthorpe	16	5	3	0	21	6	5	Blackpool	16	4	3	1	10	12	4	
Blackpool	16	4	3	1	10	12	4	Bradford	16	3	5	0	13	8	4	
Bradford	16	3	5	0	13	8	4	Sheff Utd	15	5	1	1	11	6	3	
Sheff Utd	15	5	1	1	11	6	3	Northampton	16	4	2	1	12	6	2	
Northampton	16	4	2	1	12	6	2	Rochdale	16	5	1	2	16	11	3	
Rochdale	16	5	1	2	16	11	3	Peterboro	16	3	3	2	16	9	3	
Peterboro	16	3	3	2	16	9	3	Bristol R	15	3	2	2	11	10	3	
Bristol R	15	3	2	2	11	10	3	Wimbledon	16	2	2	4	12	4	2	
Wimbledon	16	2	2	4	12	4	2	Fleetwood Tn15	4	3	1	14	10	2		
Fleetwood Tn15	4	3	1	14	10	2	2	Port Vale	16	5	2	1	14	8	1	
Port Vale	16	5	2	1	14	8	1	Walsall	15	4	2	2	15	14	1	
Walsall	15	4	2	2	15	14	1	Millwall	15	3	2	2	11	9	3	
Millwall	15	3	2	2	11	9	3	Charlton	15	3	3	2	11	6	3	
Charlton	15	3	3	2	11	6	3	Bury	16	4	0	4	12	10	2	
Bury	16	4	0	4	12	10	2	Southend	16	4	2	2	10	8	1	
Southend	16	4	2	2	10	8	1	Gillingham	16	2	2	4	2	10	10	2
Gillingham	16	2	2	4	2	10	10	Coventry	15	2	5	0	7	4	1	
Coventry	15	2	5	0	7	4	1	Blackpool	16	0	3	5	7	16	4	
Blackpool	16	0	3	5	7	16	4	Swindon	16	3	0	5	10	10	1	
Swindon	16	3	0	5	10	10	1	Walsall	16	1	3	4	4	9	2	
Walsall	16	1	3	4	4	9	2	Chesterfld	15	3	1	4	12	13	0	
Chesterfld	15	3	1	4	12	13	0	Shrewsbury	16	1	2	5	8	15	1	
Shrewsbury	16	1	2	5	8	15	1									

SkyBet League Two

Accrington	1	Newport County	3
Dolan 79			
HT 0-0			
Barnet	3	Hartlepool	2
Alkane 68 pen			
Gambin 76			
Batt 79			
HT 0-1			
Cambridge	0	POMPEY	1
HT 0-1			
Carlisle	3	Crawley	1
Ibbett 5			
Kennedy 28			
Joyce 45			
HT 3-0			
Cheltenham	2	Blackpool	2
Dayton 18			
HT 2-1			
Doncaster	2	Wycombe	2
Rowe 40			
HT 2-1			
Leyton O	0	Crewe	2
HT 0-0			
Mansfield	1	Stevenage	2
Hoban 54			
HT 0-1			
Morecambe	0	Exeter	3
HT 0-1			
Notts City	0	Luton	0
HT 0-0			
Plymouth	2	Colchester	1
Tanner 16			
HT 1-1			
Yeovil	0	Grimsby	0
HT 0-0			

	HOME							AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Plymouth	15	5	2	1	14	9	6	0	1	12	4	8	35	31	
Carlisle	15	5	3	0	14	7	3	4	0	13	4	8	35	31	
Doncaster	15	5	3	0	16	8	3	4	0	14	3	8	36	32	
Luton	15	3	3	1	13	8	3	3	2	11	7	7	24	24	
POMPEY	15	4	1	2	17	8	3	2	3	6	8	24	24	24	
Notts City	15	1	4	3	9	11	5	0	2	13	10	8	22	21	
Crewe	15	2	4	1	9	7	3	2	4	9	7	10	22	21	
Grimsby	15	3	0	4	9	10	3	3	2	9	8	8	21	21	
Accrington	15	3	2	3	12	13	2	3	2	9	7	7	20	20	
Crawley	15	2	3	1	7	5	2	2	4	9	14	7	20	20	
Blackpool	15	2	3	1	10	7	2	2	4	9	14	7	20	20	
Morecambe	15	2	0	6	8	19	4	2	1	12	10	20	19	19	
Manstield	15	2	3	0	7	7	2	4	1	8	8	8	19	19	
Barnet	15	2	4	2	10	11	2	4	2	10	12	19	19	19	
Blackpool	15	2	4	2	10	11	2	4	2	10	12	19	19	19	
Doncaster	15	2	4	2	10	9	1	4	2	8	10	17	17	17	
Stevensage	14	3	0	4	13	11	1	3	4	7	17	17	17	17	
Colchester	15	2	2	2	13	11	1	2	3	4	6	10	17	17	
Exeter	15	0	1	6	2	10	5	0	3	3	14	16	16	16	
Harrogate	15	0	1	6	2	10	5	0	3	3	14	16	16	16	
Wycombe	15	4	1	2	10	7	3	3	5	6	14	16	16	16	
Cambridge	15	2	2	4	7	11	2	2	3	6	8	16	16	16	
Leyton O	15	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	4	7	9	15	15	15	
Doncaster	15	0	3	9	13	2	2	2	3	7	9	15	15	15	



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